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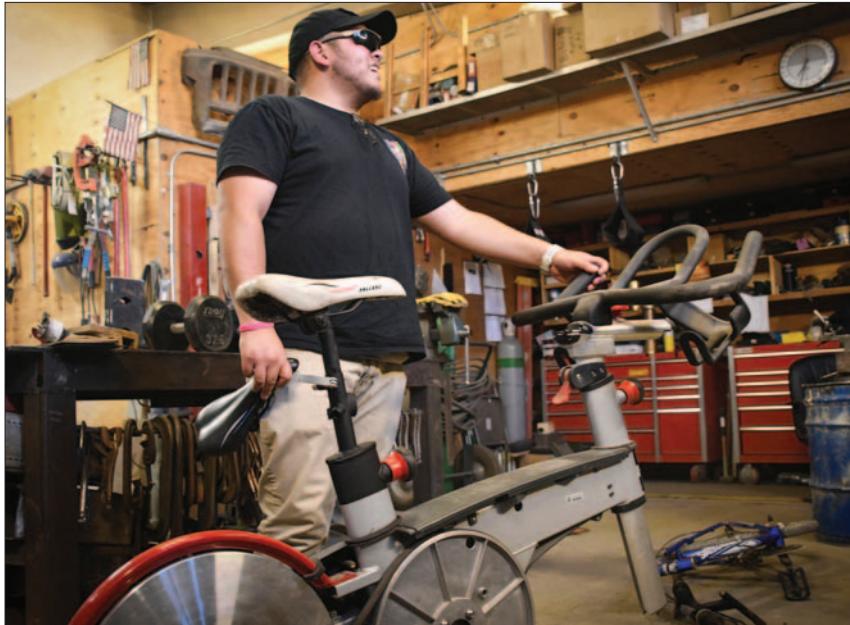
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Miller takes command in Afghanistan

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Army Gen. Austin Scott Miller, incoming commander of American and NATO troops in Afghanistan, pledged during a change-of-command ceremony Sunday in Kabul that he would ensure Afghanistan would not become a safe haven for terrorists.

Miller took over from Army Gen. John Nicholson, who, after more than two years in charge, had been the U.S.' longest-serving commanding general of the 17-year-old war.

Miller assumed command amid reported U.S. efforts to negotiate peace with a resilient Taliban insurgency and as senior military officials have said the Pentagon does not expect an endless large-scale military mission in the country.

"We must ensure terrorists can never use Afghanistan as a safe haven," Miller told American, NATO and Afghan officials who attended the ceremony.

He takes command of NATO forces in Afghanistan as the country suffers from continued warfare, a devastating drought and concerns over upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections.

Afghanistan saw a glimpse of peace when the government and the Taliban announced overlapping cease-fires in June, prompting displays nationwide of insurgents and government soldiers hugging and taking selfies.

A second cease-fire offered by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has yet to be accepted by the Taliban and fighting continues throughout the country. Districts in Faryab and Badakhshan provinces remain under militant pressure, and local officials warn of



Miller

Scrapyard finds

Reopened bases in Afghanistan being outfitted with salvaged gym equipment

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — Dom Baumgartner's part to play in the Afghanistan War effort has him hunting through mounds of rusty scraps and breathing a fine layer of desert dust on a sizzling August afternoon.

Baumgartner, who oversees Morale, Welfare and Recreation for troops in Afghanistan, arrived after receiving a key piece of intelligence — someone left a dirty-but-functional elliptical machine in the Bagram scrapyard.

SEE BASES ON PAGE 5



PHOTOS BY J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

Top: Dom Baumgartner, director of Morale, Welfare and Readiness for Area Support Group-Afghanistan, picks up a spin bike he had repaired after finding parts at a scrapyard at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. **Above:** Mark McRae, a Defense Department civilian, digs through boxes of discarded junk at the scrapyard on Aug. 25.

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Revoked permits halt construction of coastal runway in Okinawa

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US-Mexico border serves as setting for 'Sons of Anarchy' spinoff 'Mayans M.C.'

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SPORTS

Brother's sacrifice kept Ashe on track to win first US Open

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Tagovailoa shines for Alabama in first start » **Back page**

MILITARY

Miller: General told senators in June he 'can't guarantee' an end date for war

FROM FRONT PAGE

increasing Taliban threats near major cities such as Kabul and Gardez. The Afghan military, meanwhile, announced 102 special forces operations and 11 airstrikes in 11 provinces Saturday.

A decorated special operations soldier, Miller previously oversaw the U.S.' most secretive commando units as chief of Joint Special Operations Command. The West Point graduate participated in combat operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia and Bosnia, according to an official biography. When he was a captain, he led a contingent of the elite Delta Force during the Battle of Mogadishu in 1993.

During his confirmation hearing, Miller said he didn't foresee an end to the conflict anytime soon.

"I can't guarantee you any timeline or an end date," he told the Senate Armed Services Committee earlier in June, adding that withdrawal from Afghanistan could allow extremist groups such as Islamic State to strengthen and to carry out attacks on U.S. soil.

Miller warned lawmakers that withdrawing from Afghanistan likely would mirror the pullout of U.S. troops from Iraq in 2011 — which helped lead to the rise of ISIS.

The Pentagon does not expect an enduring large military commitment in Afghanistan, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, told reporters Aug. 28.

In recent weeks, the Taliban have launched several high-profile attacks on cities across Afghanistan, leading to the deaths of hundreds of security personnel, destruction in the key city of Ghazni and the capture of several small military bases in northern Afghanistan.

During farewell remarks, Nicholson asked the Taliban to declare a cease-fire and pursue peace talks.

"It's time for this war in Afghanistan to end," Nicholson said Sunday. "The time for peace is now."

Since last summer, Nicholson has overseen the Trump administration's new

Afghan helo crash kills 3

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan official says a foreign pilot and two Afghan soldiers were killed when a helicopter contracted by NATO crashed inside an army base.

Maj. Hanif Rezaie, an army spokesman, said three others, including another foreign pilot, were wounded when the Mi-14 helicopter crashed shortly after takeoff from the base near the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

Rezaie said the crash was caused by a technical problem and the helicopter caught fire after it hit the ground. He said there was no enemy fire.

Seven other security force members aboard the helicopter were rescued.

Rezaie was unable to confirm the nationalities of the two foreign pilots.

From The Associated Press

strategy for Afghanistan that includes pouring thousands of additional troops into the country, increasing its bombing campaign against the Taliban and pressuring Pakistan to assist in security efforts.

In his speech, Nicholson noted successes such as the growth of the Afghan air force and the buildup of the Afghan commando units from 30 companies to 45 in the two years since he took command.

Despite the revamped approach designed to drive Taliban leaders into peace negotiations, the U.S.-backed Afghan government has made "no significant progress" in increasing the percentage of the population living under government control or influence, according to the latest Department of Defense Inspector General report on Afghanistan. The report noted 35 percent of the population lives under Taliban control or in contested areas.

In July, American diplomats, in a reversal of policy in Afghanistan that favored



J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

Gen. Austin Scott Miller assumes command of NATO forces in Afghanistan in a ceremony Sunday at Resolute Support Headquarters in Kabul.

talks between the Taliban and the Kabul government, opened direct negotiations with Taliban representatives, according to media reports.

Miller has said he has spent about four cumulative years serving in Afghanistan over various deployments. In 2001, just months after the 9/11 terrorist attacks that sparked the war, Miller was among the first Americans in Afghanistan. He returned for deployments in 2009 and 2013, most recently leading special operations forces in the country.

Several defense officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Stars and Stripes that the Pentagon expects him to implement an aggressive but analytical style as the top commander in Afghanistan. Miller was at the helm of the Army's most elite and secretive unit, Delta Force, when it greatly increased its aggressiveness in the war in Iraq — largely in volatile Anbar province, which includes the key cities of Ramadi and Fallujah.

There are about 15,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, down from a peak of about 100,000 under President Barack Obama's surge.

Those in the crowd included Gen. Joseph Votel, the commander of U.S. Central Command, former Afghan national security adviser Hanif Atmar and the man who replaced him, Hamdullah Mohib.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, Col. Matthew R. Weinsel assumed command of the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, which provides support through supply, medical evacuation and drone and combat helicopter missions.

"This is really the first time we've seen some hope in respect to some sort of peace and reconciliation," said Weinsel, who has deployed to Afghanistan five times, including to Kandahar as part of the U.S. surge in 2009.

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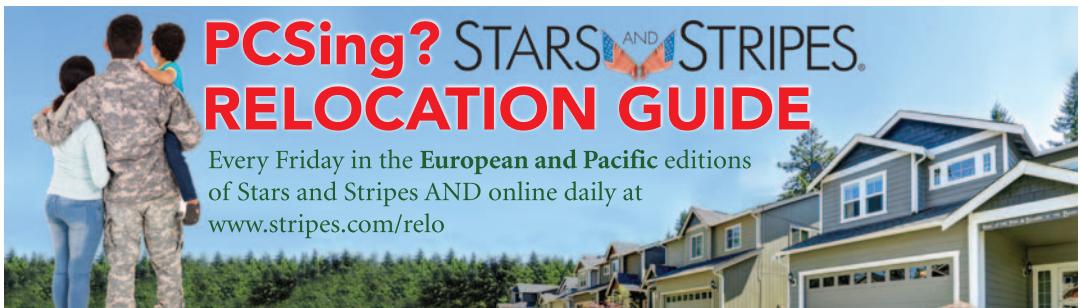
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MILITARY

BONDING THROUGH BASEBALL



US servicemembers, Japanese hosts use America's pastime to build relationships

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A group of U.S. servicemembers and Defense Department civilians have been using America's pastime to build relationships with their Japanese hosts.

The Japan Military WarDogs intramural baseball team calls Yokosuka home, although active-duty members come from as far away as Camp Zama in Kanagawa prefecture and Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo to play, said Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan Soto,

who helps coach the team.

The group is part of the USA Military WarDogs, which aims to start a network of teams in parts of the world where servicemembers are stationed, Soto said.

The Japan Military WarDogs — which includes soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and civilians — recently defeated a team of Japanese sailors from the National Defense Academy 17-8. Their next game is scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday against Tokyo's Adachi Dreams at Yokosuka.

news@stripes.com



The Japan Military WarDogs, a baseball team composed of U.S. servicemembers and Defense Department civilians, mostly from Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, play a game against the Fighting Birds, a Japanese team, earlier this year at Yokosuka.

Photos courtesy of the Military WarDogs

PACIFIC

Okinawan officials halt base work for 3rd time

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Okinawa prefectural officials have followed through on promises once again to revoke permits related to the construction of a coastal runway that would facilitate the relocation and closure of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

The announcement was made Friday afternoon by Okinawa vice governor Kichi-ichiro Jahanah. Prefectural officials based the move on allegations that Tokyo violated environmental regulations regarding an endangered species of coral found at the site, deviated from construction plans and withheld vital information.

Japanese broadcaster NHK said the Japanese government would be forced to hold off on landfill plans for the runway until a decision is made by the courts. The Ryukyu Shimpo newspaper reported a ruling could take between a few weeks and a

few months.

Jahanah, who said Tokyo's plans for the site will cause environmental calamity, called the construction "illegal."

"It is suitable to revoke the approval on landfill," he said. "We will do our best to stop the ... construction."

This is the third time the administration either has revoked permitting for the project or has sued to stop it. It largely is seen as a last-ditch effort after two previous attempts were struck down in Japanese courts.

Officials from the Okinawa Defense Bureau, which represents Japan's Defense Ministry on the island, said they had just received the letter outlining the prefectural government's plans at 3:30 p.m. Friday afternoon and couldn't comment until they had time to digest its contents.

In the past, Japanese officials threatened to punish Okinawa for unnecessarily delaying the project by seeking compensation. Jahanah said he was not worried because he felt the prefecture's legal argument for re-

voking the permit was sound, the Ryukyu Shimpo reported.

"We strongly believed the withdrawal is an appropriate action and there will be no compensation," he said.

Relocating Marine air operations from the densely packed urban area of Futenma is more than 20 years in the making because of safety concerns over frequent overhead flight operations.

The plan to build a runway out Oura Bay at Camp Schwab in Henoko was decided during bilateral negotiations in 2006. The move was opposed by a small but passionate protest movement on the island.

Former Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima signed off on a permit to allow the landfill work in 2013 and construction began in August 2014; however, the November 2014 election of Takeshi Onaga threatened to derail the project.

Onaga ran on a platform of vowing to stop the project and to eject the MV-22 Osprey from the island.

He revoked a permit to fill in the sea for

the runway in March 2016, which halted construction. That move was struck down by the Fukuoka High Court in December 2016.

He then filed a district court lawsuit in July 2017, which ended unsuccessfully in March.

Plans then were made to start construction on the runway on Aug. 17. Onaga had vowed one final permit revocation, but then died suddenly of pancreatic cancer on Aug. 8.

The central government postponed the landfill work in the wake of his death.

It remains unclear which way the island will vote regarding Onaga's successor. Anti-base demonstrators suffered a major setback in February when Nago's anti-base mayor was defeated by an independent candidate backed by Tokyo. However, the race is already shaping up to include anti-base candidates.

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Hawaii eases anti-rabies protocol for arriving pets

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Bringing your pet dog or cat to Hawaii just became a bit easier — but a hair more expensive.

A revision to the state's rabies quarantine program that went into effect Friday considerably reduces the post-vaccination waiting period pets require before being brought to Hawaii, which is the only rabies-free state in America.

Under previous rules, pets were required to undergo a waiting period outside Hawaii of 120 days after the blood antibody test, or FAVN, and a waiting period of 90 days from the last rabies vaccination before arriving in the state.

The new rules reduce waiting periods for each to 30 days.

The fee for "direct airport release," meaning owners can take their pets with them at the time of their arrival, is increasing from \$165 to \$185.

To qualify for direct airport release and to avoid a lengthy physical quarantine, pets must comply with strict protocols.

Pets not following the protocol are subject to a 120-day, in-state quarantine upon arrival.

"These quarantine rule changes have been researched to maintain adequate safeguards to keep rabies and other tick-borne diseases out of Hawaii," Gov. David Ige said in a news release announcing the final implementation of the new rules.

Tick-borne Lyme disease has continued to spread on the mainland's Northeast region and the Upper Midwest, but the type of tick responsible for its spread has not been found in Hawaii.

"It is vitally important that we protect our state from the introduction of rabies, not only for animal health, but human health," Ige said.

Last year, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, which implements the rabies-prevention

protocols, processed more than 16,500 dogs and cats entering Hawaii, of which 90 percent were qualified to be released upon arrival at the airport, according to the governor's office.

Requirements for pets to qualify for release upon arrival at Oahu's Daniel K. Inouye International Airport in Honolulu are:

- Two rabies vaccinations, with the last one given no more than a year prior to arrival if a one-year licensed vaccine was given or no more than three years prior to arrival if it was a three-year vaccine.
- Microchip implantation.
- A blood serum rabies test resulting in rabies antibodies at a level greater than 0.5 units per milliliter.
- The newly amended 30-day pre-arrival waiting period.
- A health certificate issued by an accredited veterinarian no more than 14 days before arrival documenting no signs of infections, contagious diseases or parasites such as ticks and fleas.
- Inspection of the pet at Hawaii airport for external parasites.

Hawaii officials must receive all required paperwork more than 10 days before the pet's arrival.

Janelle Saneishi, a spokeswoman for the state's Department of Agriculture, said the most frequently overlooked requirement preventing pet owners from same-day release is failure to submit all documentation to Animal Quarantine Station 10 days before arrival. She said military personnel are often under the impression that the paperwork can be brought on arrival.

All is not lost in such cases, however, as long as all other requirements have been followed.

The pet will be processed within five days — with a higher processing fee of \$244 — after which an owner can take the animal home.

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MICAH BLECHNER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

From left, a Royal Thai Marine police officer, a Philippine coast guardsman and a Royal Thai Navy sailor practice tactical procedures Wednesday during Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training in Manila, Philippines.

US trains with Southeast Asia nations to visit, board, search and seize ships

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The Navy, the Coast Guard and personnel from eight partner nations are training to visit, board, search and seize vessels in Southeast Asia.

The 17th annual South East Asia Cooperation and Training, or SEACAT, exercise, which began Aug. 27 and runs through Friday, involves sailors and coast guardsmen from Bangladesh, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Three vessels will take part in 15 boarding operations at sea along with 100 personnel from multiple nations, the Navy's Singapore-based Task Force 73 commander, Read Adm. Joey Tynch, told reporters, according to a transcript of a telephone news conference Thursday.

Tynch declined to identify the location of the at-sea training; however, Singapore's Straits Times

newspaper said it was taking place in the South China Sea, the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

A Navy statement said the exercise would incorporate increasingly complex maritime interdiction scenarios to emphasize "real world, real time" practice.

"Based on the situation, ships and aircrafts from participating navies and coast guards including the U.S. Navy's P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft will investigate and conduct at-sea boardings as necessary," the statement said.

Personnel will practice sharing information from maritime operations centers in Brunei, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, Tynch said.

"We all need to share the same maritime picture so that we can identify and enforce the same maritime laws. Rules-based order requires maritime domain awareness," he said.

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MILITARY

Amputee soldier takes oath of re-enlistment in dive tank

By LEE ROOP

(Birmingham) Alabama Media Group

If you were looking for Huntsville soldier Michael Brown on Friday, you needed to search 30 feet under water in the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's dive tank.

Staff Sgt. Brown, a combat veteran and wounded warrior based at Redstone Arsenal, went to the bottom of the tank to take his oath of re-enlistment from fellow diver Lt. Col. Gary Blount.

Brown chose the center's Underwater Astronaut Trainer "as a fitting location to marry his two passions, the Army and scuba diving," the Army said in a news release. It's where Brown loves to be, and that's something of a surprise to him and every-

one else.

"In 2007, two years after joining the army, my left leg was blown off below the knee," Brown explained after surfacing. It happened in Mosul, Iraq, 33 days after he deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom. An RPG-3 anti-tank grenade hit Brown, and he was evacuated to Walter Reed Army Hospital.

Brown got a specially designed prosthetic leg and also something to think about. "I was taught to scuba dive as part of adaptive rehabilitation — to think outside the box about what my new normal could be," Brown said Friday.

Skydiver, scuba diver, rock climber and mountain biker — you don't think of wounded sol-

diers in those terms, Brown said, but he is all them and more.

Scuba diving is a special love, Brown said, because it "provides a pain-free environment for me to explore the wonders of the ocean, uninhibited by the burdens I feel on the surface from my disability."

"I couldn't have done that without my family," Brown said of his recovery. He thanked his sister, his wife, Kim, and his daughter, Alyssa. "Words can't express how much I love you," he told his wife.

Brown is currently an aide to the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's command sergeant major. His re-enlistment adds seven more years to his



Al.com via Twitter

Army Staff Sgt. Michael Brown takes his re-enlistment oath Friday in the dive tank at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Army career, and that will take him to 20 years of service and re-enlistment eligibility.

That's the long-term goal. In the short term, Brown wants to lead soldiers.

Bases: Small US installations in Afghanistan lack many personal amenities of years past

FROM FRONT PAGE

There are about 3,500 more troops deploying as part of the Trump administration's strategy, and while they'll have all the guns and ammunition they'll need, their bases lack the amenities they had in years past. It's especially true for servicemembers heading to two bases in Afghanistan that closed after a drawdown of U.S. troops four years ago.

"Here in Bagram, we have lots of facilities, contractors running everything, lots of activities, lots of stuff to do, lots of gyms, but some of these [smaller bases] have nothing," Baumgartner said. "You boost the morale of the troops in all these outlying locations, you boost their productivity."

The need for equipment goes beyond entertainment. The military spent between \$5 billion and \$7 billion taking troops and materials out of the country during the 2014 drawdown, according to U.S. Central Command.

Essential equipment, such as secure communications gear, is now being flown in rapidly to bases that haven't been used in years. It serves an influx of troops that arrived between April and June, the first quarter the U.S. has had full use of additional servicemembers and assets, according to a recent Lead Inspector General report to Congress.

Squat racks and video games. Those come more slowly. An order for gym equipment from 2016 arrived at Bagram just a few weeks ago, Baumgartner said.

More new equipment is expected to be arriving in the country in the fall, but until then, Baumgartner has resorted to an ad hoc scrounging process, finding one set of dumbbells here, digging up an ab machine there.

Baumgartner said his prior-

ity is sending gym equipment to Camp Dakhla West, part of a once-closed base that now hosts troops from the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade and a cavalry unit. The base is part of Camp Dakhla, formerly known as Forward Operating Base Shank, which closed in 2014.

Dakhla West is in Logar province near the Tangi Valley, an insurmountable stronghold where a Chinook helicopter was shot down in 2011, killing 30 Americans and multiple Afghans. The base has grown in recent months, with recent construction including an expanded flight line and hardened living quarters.

"When we got here, there was not much built. And so, in a month and a half, everything has been expanded rapidly," Capt. Amar Arias, commander of a unit that provides base support at Dakhla West, said in a statement in May.

Baumgartner has had to buy more stuff for break rooms and gyms as more soldiers move into Dakhla West. He also ordered 10 more TVs and 10 more PlayStation game systems for various bases a month ago.

He's had some luck finding exercise equipment at the FRE yard, a scrapyard officially known as the Forward Retrograde Element.

Inside a hangarlike building, two lines of large, white boxes contain piles of assorted junk: fire extinguishers, wrenches, ammo cans, an old TV. Contractors sift through material left behind by units leaving Bagram and place what's reusable into the FRE yard.

People can come to the yard and take what they want from what resembles a particularly austere yard sale.

"One man's junk is another

man's treasure, and that plays out every day here," said Mark McRae, who works at the FRE yard. "People come in just to see what we have, and they'll pick up an item, and all they have to do is sign a hand receipt for it and it's theirs."

The yard, which is 6 years old, had its heyday during the drawdown, when hundreds of contractors worked around the clock to process stuff left behind by departing troops, said McRae, a civilian with the 49th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

At the FRE yard, McRae directed Baumgartner to the rumored elliptical machine. Baumgartner said he's been able to send a rowing machine, some dumbbells and a dumbbell rack to Dakhla West.

Baumgartner then drove to a welding shop at Bagram. He recently found a spin bike with a broken seat and had another bike seat welded onto it. He said he might be able to send that spin bike to soldiers on an outlying base.

"No one really expected there would be this population boom," Baumgartner said.

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Florida theme parks offer military families deal on admission

BY DREW BROOKS

The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer

Universal Orlando Resort is offering active-duty and retired troops and their families a four-for-one deal through the rest of the year.

The vacation destination with three theme parks — Universal Studios Florida, Islands of Adventure and Volcano Bay — will allow military members to purchase four-day tickets for the price of one-day tickets, officials said. Two- and three-park options also are available.

The tickets must be redeemed by the end of the year.

"That's four days of roller coaster thrills and family favorite experiences like Universal Studios Florida's newest ride, *Fast & Furious* — Supercharged, on which fans can join the *Fast & Furious* family as they step into the action of the blockbuster film franchise," officials said. "They can also enjoy two new spectacular nighttime shows — Universal Orlando's Cinematic Celebration" at Universal Studios Florida and "The Nighttime Lights at Hogwarts Castle" at Universal's Islands of Adventure."

The offer is available with valid identification at Leisure Travel Service Offices and other locations. For more information, go to www.UniversalOrlando.com/military.



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MILITARY

Family given 2nd Japanese flag from WWII soldier

BY CAITLIN DOORNbos
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Korean War veteran Ralph Wood had for years stared at a framed Japanese flag covered in signatures at his local Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Gold Bar, Wash.

The 85-year-old surmised it had been placed there decades ago by a World War II vet. Of the handful of VFW members still left in the town of 2,000 people, none could say where the old flag came from. "No one knew anything about it," Wood told Stars and Stripes in a recent phone interview. "It was mysterious."

Earlier this year, he came across a newspaper article about the Oregon-based Obon Society, which works to return WWII-era flags taken as souvenirs by U.S. servicemembers to the families of fallen Japanese troops.

That's when Wood knew he needed to hand over the mysterious banner.

"It seemed like the good thing to do," he said. "It was the righteous thing to do."

Wood added that his fellow VFW members "were all for it."

"I and the guys in our group all know young men that died in the service of their country, or at least

doing what they thought was their duty," Wood said. "In retrospect, as an 85-year-old man, I look back at these wars and wonder if we should have been in them and that sort of thing, but when you're 20, you just want to serve your country. And that's what [the flag's original owner] was doing, and it cost him his life."

Wood sent the flag to the Obon Society, which then examined the Japanese words scrawled onto the fabric.

During WWII, such flags were often signed by servicemembers' families, neighbors, schoolmates and coworkers wishing for good fortune in war. The warriors would then fold the flag and carry it into battle.

Staff members noticed a familiar name on the flag that Wood sent in: Masamoto Abe.

Just two years ago, the group had returned a flag belonging to a Masamoto Abe to the man's family in Yokohama, said Koishi Kudo, an Obon Society staff member. Researchers soon determined the flag handed over by Wood also belonged to Abe.

It is the first time the society had returned two Japanese flags to a single family, Kudo said. "We thought an unimaginable thing had happened."

Obon Society founders Rex and Keiko Ziaik told Stars and

Stripes in an email that they were shocked at the discovery.

"We were so surprised! What are the chances of that happening?" the message said.

The Obon Society then contacted Abe's nephew, Hisashi Abe, 80, of Yokohama, who was grateful for the news. Masamoto Abe was his father's younger brother. He fought and died in 1944 in New Guinea when he was 33.

Although Hisashi Abe has only a vague memory of his uncle, he was happy to receive the first flag in 2016.

"I was surprised," he told Stars and Stripes at his home on Aug. 25.

"If there was even one of them left, they would have been very



HANA KUSUMOTO/Stars and Stripes

Hisashi Abe and his wife, Saeko, hold two Japanese flags that belonged to his uncle, Masamoto Abe, at their home in Yokohama, Japan, on Aug. 25.

25.

The thought of receiving a second flag belonging to his uncle that had traveled across the world was even more surprising, said Hisashi Abe's wife, Saeko.

"We didn't even know that he took these flags," she said.

The Obon Society returned the second flag to the Abe family on Aug. 22.

Hisashi Abe lamented that older family members, such as Masamoto's brothers and sister who signed the flag, died without seeing them returned.

"If there was even one of them left, they would have been very

happy," he said.

Hisashi Abe said he will keep the family treasures in a safe place. He has already shown the second flag to his son and told him to take good care of it.

Wood said he was glad the flag could bring closure to the family so many years later.

"I remember some of my young friends who were killed (in Korea) and it seems analogous to Mr. Abe's situation," he said. "You know, he was 33 when he was killed, so he never got to have a life."

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Grafenwoehr accident remembered nearly 60 years later

BY MARTIN EGNHASH
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Few today know about the grim accident — the worst in Grafenwoehr's history — that took the lives of 16 soldiers serving on this base on Sept. 2, 1960.

A platoon of U.S. soldiers was putting up tents that Friday morning, getting ready to spend their weekend training in the field. About 9 a.m., an 8-inch, 200-pound howitzer shell overshot its intended target and hit their tents, killing 16 soldiers and wounding 27.

"The shell smashed into three tents occupied by soldiers," according to Stars and Stripes on Sept. 3, 1960. "It tore through one tent, exploded in the second, and sent fragments hurtling into the third."

Army investigations determined the 8-inch howitzer shell was overcharged and badly aimed. It missed the artillery impact area and landed at Camp Kaserne.

There are no memorials or



Courtesy of Frank da Cruz and USAG Bavaria
A table holds the helmets of the 16 killed soldiers in front of an altar in 1960.

services these days to mark the tragedy. Only newspapers and a small section dedicated to the accident at the Grafenwoehr Museum for Cultural and Military History serve as memorials of the

incident.

"The accident seems to have been lost in history," said Army spokesman Desiree Dillehay. "At this time, (U.S. Army Garrison) Bavaria does not have any memo-



Stars and Stripes

The Sept. 3, 1960, Stars and Stripes reported the deadly Grafenwoehr accident.

rials or services that recognize this accident.

"It was the deadliest accident in the Grafenwoehr Training Area to this day but remains relatively unknown to most people."

Yet the memory of that day

lives on in the soldiers who were there.

Retired Gen. Colin Powell, who went on to become secretary of state under President George W. Bush, was one of them.

On the day of the accident, Powell was a first lieutenant stationed on Grafenwoehr. He describes the event in his memoir, "My American Journey."

"My ears pricked up at an odd, whistling sound overhead. In about a nanosecond, I realized it was an artillery shell that had strayed wildly out of the impact area," Powell recounts in his book.

"I stopped, frozen, and actually saw the 8-inch round come in. It struck a tent pole in the 12th Cavalry's sector, detonating in an air burst."

"The roar was deafening, followed by a terrifying silence. I had seen a hundred war movies, but nothing prepared me for the sights I saw that day."

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NATION

McCain burial in private ceremony at Naval Academy

The Washington Post

The late Sen. John McCain was being buried Sunday in a private ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., bringing to a close five days of events honoring the late Arizona Republican.

McCain, who died Aug. 25 of brain cancer at age 81, was the son and grandson of four-star admirals and a 1958 graduate of the Naval Academy. He endured more than five years of torture and imprisonment as a POW in Vietnam.

The private memorial service was to be attended by McCain's family, close friends, former classmates and military leaders. Among the expected speakers were longtime friend Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., retired Army general and former CIA Director David Petraeus and the

senator's son, Jack McCain.

After the ceremony, McCain was to be laid to rest next to his Naval Academy classmate and friend Adm. Charles Larson.

On Saturday, official Washington, with the notable exception of President Donald Trump — gathered at Washington National Cathedral for a memorial service that featured tributes by such speakers as former presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

McCain's legacy of bipartisanship and the deterioration of civility under Trump were themes mentioned by many of those who eulogized him, with some of the sharpest words aimed at the president coming from the senator's daughter, Meghan McCain.

In an appearance Sunday morning on CNN's "State of the Union," former Sen. Jo-



LARSEN/AP

A wooden spike last week marked the spot where Sen. John McCain was to be buried Sunday on the grounds of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

seph Lieberman, I-Conn., one of McCain's closest friends in the Senate, said the burial service was "going to be hard because it's the last farewell."

"Religiously, I feel their body is there, but their soul is on to the next world," said Lieberman, who eulogized McCain on Saturday. "But I'm left with incredible memories. I say goodbye, but I'll thank God I knew a man like John McCain."

Graham also recounted his memories of McCain during an appearance on the show. He told host Dana Bash that the main takeaway from the past week and from McCain's life is service to a cause greater than oneself.

"If you're thinking of public service, pick a cause worthy of a good fight and, above all else, when you make a mistake, admit it," Graham said.

100K pages of Kavanaugh records to be withheld

BY SEUNG MIN KIM
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump will not release more than 100,000 pages of records from Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh's tenure in the George W. Bush White House, claiming they would be covered by executive privilege.

The White House's decision was disclosed in a letter sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee on Friday ahead of Kavanaugh's confirmation hearings this week. A Bush representative who has led a team of attorneys reviewing Kavanaugh's papers confirmed that lawyers have finished going through the records and have turned over about 415,000 pages to the committee, although about 147,000 of those pages are being withheld from public view.

"President Bush directed us to proceed expeditiously and to err as much as appropriate on the side of transparency and disclosure, and we believe we have done so," attorney Bill Buck, who serves as Bush's presidential records representative, wrote to the committee.

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The Presidential Records Act



President George W. Bush, left, watches the swearing-in of Brett Kavanaugh as judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, right, during a ceremony at the White House on June 1, 2006. Holding the Bible is Kavanaugh's wife, Ashley.

House to claim privilege on the records. A White House spokesman, Raj Shah, said Saturday that he will let the letter, first reported by The Associated Press, speak for itself. Trump has not officially invoked executive privilege over the documents.

Judge Kavanaugh, an associate and senior associate White House counsel, dealt with some of the most sensitive communications of any White House official," Buck wrote. The major portion of the documents withheld for privilege "reflect deliberations and candid advice concerning the selection and nomination of judicial candi-

dates, the confidentiality of which is critical to any president's ability to carry out this core constitutional executive function."

The battle over Kavanaugh's documents has been a dominant story line in the fight to replace the retired Justice Anthony Kennedy. Kavanaugh was nominated July 9, and his confirmation could tilt the balance of the Supreme Court for a generation.

Senate Democrats have been infuriated that Republicans have requested documents just from Kavanaugh's two years as associate White House counsel as the Senate reviews the nominee's

record. Democrats have also pushed for records from Kavanaugh's three years as Bush's staff secretary, but Republicans say that demand is excessive and that those papers are irrelevant to Kavanaugh's nomination.

President Barack Obama did not claim privilege on any of the documents involving now-Judge Elena Kagan, the last Supreme Court nominee to have served in a White House, according to Christopher Kang, who was a deputy counsel under Obama.

"This may be the latest and most dramatic breach in the process, but we already knew it was a sham, broken at every step along the way," said Kang, who is now with Demand Justice, an advocacy group working to defeat Kavanaugh and other conservative judicial nominees. "The issue now is what are Democrats going to do about it? Unite in opposition? Boycott the hearing? This kind of brash cover-up requires an equally forceful response."

A senior Senate Democratic aide said Democrats believe this would be the first time a sitting president exerted privilege under the records law to prevent disclosure of presidential documents to Congress, citing their conversations with National Archives officials.

Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., called the disclosure that the Trump White House is withholding more than 100,000 pages of Kavanaugh's records a "Friday night document massacre" and said it has all the makings of a cover-up.

Racist calls mock black candidate in Florida

BY IVAN MORENO
Associated Press

Racist phone calls mocking Florida's black Democratic gubernatorial nominee appear to be from a white supporters' podcast that has also taken credit for inflammatory robocalls in Iowa and California.

In the recorded calls, someone falsely identifying himself as Andrew Gillum speaks in a racist, old-time minstrel dialect while asking voters for their support. The calls, which, according to the Gillum campaign, started Friday, are said to be paid for by The Road to Power — an Idaho-based video podcast.

"This is reprehensible — and could only have come from someone with intentions to fuel hatred and seek publicity," Gillum campaign spokesman Geoff Burgan said in a statement. Burgan said it's unclear how widespread the calls have been but that he's only heard reports of them in Tallahassee, where Gillum is mayor.

Gillum's Republican opponent, U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, is not affiliated with the podcast behind the calls. His campaign spokesman, Stephen Lawson, called them "absolutely appalling and disgusting."

"And, hopefully, whoever is behind this has to answer for this despicable action," Lawson said in a statement.

Florida's gubernatorial contest was racially charged even before the robocalls. During an appearance on Fox News after Tuesday's primaries, DeSantis called Gillum — who is seeking to become Florida's first black governor — an "articulate" candidate, but he said, "The last thing we need to do is to monkey this up by trying to embrace a socialist agenda with huge tax increases and bankrupting this state." DeSantis' campaign later said the congressman was referring to Gillum's policies, not himself personally.

In Iowa, anti-immigrant robocalls from The Road to Power began Tuesday — two days after the funeral of Mollie Tibbetts, a University of Iowa student who authorities say was abducted and killed by a man believed to be in the U.S. illegally.

In California, The Road to Power took credit for anti-Semitic robocalls targeting Democratic U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier in July. DeSaulnier's Republican opponent, John Fitzgerald, a Holocaust denier, wrote a July 11 post on his campaign website condemning the calls, saying they came from "a despicable, hate-filled person/organization who openly degrades ethnic groups in their podcasts and website..."

The podcast has been linked to a man who, according to police in the Idaho city of Sandpoint, was responsible for distributing racist CDs in a high school parking lot in December. That man, identified by police as Scott D. Rhodes, denied distributing the CDs.

NATION

Neb. diocese rocked by old allegations of abuse

By GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — For more than a decade, a conservative Catholic diocese in Nebraska was the only church in the U.S. that refused to participate in annual reviews of sexual misconduct that were a key reform enacted in the wake of the 2002 Boston clergy abuse scandal.

As a new wave of abuse scandals rock the Roman Catholic church, critics say the Diocese of Lincoln is now paying the price for its unwillingness to change and lack of transparency.

Accusers have been coming forward in recent weeks with allegations of sexual abuse and misconduct by clergy in Nebraska, and the diocese is facing a potential criminal investigation and criticism that it mishandled abusive priests even as it should have been subjected to increased scrutiny after the Boston scandal.

From 2002 to 2015, leaders of the Lincoln diocese refused to participate in annual audits designed to uncover sex abuse allegations and gauge how well church officials were complying with child-protection policies. Church leaders called the audits a pointless endeavor that assumed wrongdoing by the diocese and its priests, but one of the bishops during that period knew of at least two allegations against priests, according to interviews and a letter obtained by The Associated Press.

"I think the closed nature of the diocese made this worse," said Rachel Pokora, a member of the Catholic reformist group Call to Action. "Even if the audits never revealed anything — and I think they probably would have — it still shows an unwillingness to be open."

The Nebraska attorney general's office has spoken with at least two accusers and urged others to come forward about abuse in the diocese.

Lincoln police also are investigating a priest accused of having an "emotionally inappropriate, nonsexual relationship" with a

19-year-old male altar server that involved alcohol in 2017, church officials said.

A Lincoln police spokesman confirmed the investigation but declined to comment further. On Wednesday, the diocese unveiled a new, anonymous hotline and website to take complaints.

The scandals come amid accusations that Pope Francis was complicit in the face of sex abuse allegations against a former high-ranking cardinal in Washington and a grand jury investigation that identified more than 1,000 child victims in Pennsylvania.

Many of the new allegations in Lincoln focus on the actions of the Rev. James Benton, 71, a priest who retired last year despite church leaders knowing about abuse allegations against him for at least 15 years.

Dr. Stan Schulte, 37, a chiropractor in Lincoln, said Benton, his uncle, molested him at a rectory sleepover in the early 1990s when he was a boy. Another Lincoln man, Jeffrey Hoover, reported a similar experience with Benton during a camping trip in the early 1980s while he and the priest slept in the same bed.

Church officials said they didn't have enough evidence to pursue charges. Benton has not been charged with a crime, although the two men have spoken with an investigator from the Nebraska attorney general's office.

A diocese spokesman, the Rev. Nick Kipper, said church officials would not comment beyond statements from the current bishop, the Rev. James Conley.

Hoover said he reported his experience to a priest in 1997 and directly to then-Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz in 2002. Schulte notified the diocese in 2017 and said he probably would not have been molested if the diocese had properly responded to Hoover's allegations.



Hoover



NATI HARNIK/AP

A flag flies at the Cathedral of The Risen Christ adjacent to the Catholic Chancery in Lincoln, Neb. The Diocese of Lincoln is coming under criticism amid the child sex abuse scandal that has rocked the Roman Catholic Church.

Pope urged to cancel youth conference

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The archbishop of Philadelphia has asked Pope Francis to cancel a bishops' conference focusing on youth in the wake of the child sex abuse crisis roiling the Catholic Church.

A spokesman for the archdiocese confirmed Saturday that Archbishop Charles Chaput made the request by letter, but he declined further comment, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

The Youth Synod, which would include bishops from around the world, has been planned for two years, and its website says it is to be focused on "young people, the faith and vocational discernment." An international panel of young people is expected to join the council of bishops for the event.

"I have written the Holy Father and called on him to cancel the forthcoming

synod on young people," Chaput said at a conference Thursday at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, according to LifeSite News, a conservative Catholic website. "Right now, the bishops would have absolutely no credibility in addressing this topic."

A nearly 900-page grand jury report released last month said more than 300 Catholic priests abused at least 1,000 children over the past seven decades in six Pennsylvania dioceses and senior figures in the church hierarchy systematically covered up complaints.

Instead, Chaput asked that the synod be refocused on the life of bishops.

A description of the purpose of the Oct. 3-28 synod at the Vatican begins, "Taking care of young people is not an optional task for the Church but an integral part of her vocation and mission in history."

Facebook includes Alaska's Inupiat as language option

By RACHEL D'ORO
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Britt'Nee Brower grew up in a largely Inupiat Eskimo town in Alaska's far north, but English was the only language spoken at home.

Today, she knows a smattering of Inupiat from childhood language classes at school in the community of Utqiagvik. Brower even published an Inupiat coloring book last year featuring the names of common animals of the region. But she hopes to someday speak fluently by practicing her ancestral language in a daily, modern setting.

The Anchorage woman, 29, has started to do just that with a new Inupiat language option that recently went live on Facebook for those who employ the social media giant's community trans-

lation tool. Launched a decade ago, the tool has allowed users to translate bookmarks, action buttons and other functions in more than 100 languages around the globe.

For now, Facebook is being translated into Inupiat only on its website, not on its app.

"I was excited," Brower said of her first time trying the feature, still a work in progress as Inupiat words are slowly added. "I was thinking, 'I'm going to have to bring out my Inupiat dictionary so I can learn.' So I did."

Facebook users can submit requests to translate the site's vast interface workings — the buttons that allow users to like, comment and navigate the site — into any language through crowdsourcing. With the interface tool, it's the Facebook users who do the translating of words and short phrases. Words are confirmed through



Britt'Nee Brower

crowd up-and-down voting.

Besides the Inupiat option, Cherokee and Canada's Inuktitut are other indigenous languages in the process of being translated, according to Facebook spokeswoman Arielle Argyres.

"It's important to have these indigenous languages on the internet. Oftentimes they're nowhere to be found," she said. "So much is carried through language — tradition, culture — and so, in the digital world, being able to translate from that environment is really important."

10 hurt, 4 missing after head-on boat collision on Colorado River

Associated Press

MOABI REGIONAL PARK, Calif. — Four people are missing after two boats crashed and sunk on the Colorado River, ejecting more than a dozen people who were on board, authorities said Sunday.

A recreational boat carrying 10 people and another vessel with six people on board collided head-on Saturday night on a well-traveled stretch of the river that marks the border between California and Arizona, the Mohave County Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

Both boats sank and passing boats pulled crushed victims from the water. One person was found in critical condition and flown to a hospital in Las Vegas, while nine others were taken to local hospitals by ambulance, authorities said.

The crash occurred between two popular marinas and near Moabi Regional Park, a well-trav-

eled recreation area crowded with people enjoying the Labor Day weekend.

Helicopters were deployed immediately after the crash was reported and couldn't locate the missing. Rescuers had to call off the search until Sunday morning because it was too dangerous to put divers in the river after dark. The river's water can range from shallow to 30 feet deep.

Authorities reviewed the shoreline after daylight, but four people were still missing, said Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the San Bernardino County Fire District in California.

The cause of the crash is being investigated by Mohave County authorities, Sherwin said. He said low light conditions undoubtedly played a role.

None of the boaters was wearing life vests when the collision occurred, said Anita Mortensen, a spokeswoman for the Mohave County Sheriff's Office.

NATION

Calif. bill would limit how early school day can start

BY SOPHIA BOLLAG
AND DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California lawmakers voted Friday to bar middle and high schools from starting before 8:30 a.m., one of dozens of proposals debated in the Legislature on the final day of its legislative session.

The bill, SB328, narrowly passed in both chambers. The development came as lawmakers scrambled to pass bills ahead of a midnight deadline, addressing topics ranging from internet neutrality to smoking at state beaches. Lawmakers also announced they were shelving several high-profile bills, including one that would have declared gay conversion therapy a fraudulent business practice.

Nearly 80 percent of California middle and high schools started earlier than 8:30 a.m. in 2012, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If Gov. Jerry Brown signs SB328, schools will have about three years to comply. It would not

apply to rural schools or to extra periods offered before the start of a school day. It would not mandate changes to school day lengths.

Supporters point to science that shows later start times make kids healthier by letting them get more sleep and help them graduate.

"This is the single most cost-effective thing we can do to improve high school graduation rates," Assemblyman Jay Obernitz, R-Hesperia, said.

Opponents say local school boards, not the state, should determine start times.

"When it comes to education, the farther away the decisions are made from the classroom, the worse those decisions are," Assemblyman Jose Medina, R-Riverside, said.

Also on Friday, Assemblyman Evan Low announced he was ending his effort this year to pass a bill declaring gay conversion therapy a fraudulent practice.

The Campbell Democrat said he authored the bill because conversion therapy has been proven ineffective and harmful. His

measure would have banned selling or advertising sexual orientation change therapy.

But Low said he needs more time as he tries to craft a national model that could be copied in other states.

The bill had passed both the Senate and Assembly and was awaiting a final Assembly vote to send it to Brown.

Low, who heads the Assembly's LGBT caucus, said the bill would not harm freedom of speech or religion because it applies only to commercial practices or financial transactions. A 2012 law limited the practice for minors, but Low's bill would have expanded the ban to adults.

Jonathan Keller, president of California Family Council, a faith-based group that helped organize opposition by local, state, and national organizations and individuals, called Low's decision an answer to opponents' prayers.

Low said he will continue working to pass legislation next year "that best protects and celebrates the identities of LGBT Califor-



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

niaans and a model for the nation to look towards."

Meanwhile, lawmakers sent dozens of other bills to Brown including measures:

■ Giving California the nation's strongest protections for net neutrality rules intended to

ensure a level playing field on the internet.

■ Requiring that all new sexual assault evidence kits be submitted to a lab within 20 days and tested within 120 days.

■ Banning smoking in picnic areas at state beaches and parks.

Philadelphia kids school teachers with new handbook

BY KRISTEN A. GRAHAM
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — Say you're brand-new to teaching in Philadelphia, and a student drops a casual "sawy" into conversation, as in "I thought I was going to make the bus, but I was sawy."

Panic? Reveal yourself as out-of-touch old? No way. The young boulds have you covered. (For the record, sawty is a word to express being wrong.)

For the first time, the Philadelphia School District has presented its new teachers and counselors with a handbook written by high school students. It features sections on engaging students, equality vs. equity, and the all-important "Philly Slang" component, a glossary of terms designed to ground school staff in the language their students actually use.

As in jawn: a noun to describe anything. A jawn can literally be any person, place or thing. Example: "Can you pass me that jawn?" And okay: fake or not authentic. Example: "Aye, ya Tims okay!"

See also — outta pocket: out of line or acting up. Example: "My teacher gave me two hours of homework today, she outta

pocket!"

The handbook is the handiwork of Khalid Abogourin, Alfredo Pratico and Horace Ryans III, three high school students

interning in the district's Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities this summer. When the trio heard about a Midwestern school district whose students wrote a similar manual, they knew they had to act.

"We said, 'We don't have one of those, and we can do better,'" said Ryans, a rising junior at Science Leadership Academy who hails from the Northeast. "A lot of these teachers aren't from Philly, have not taught in the inner city, and come in expecting to know the students right off the bat."

The glossary was self-sourced, said Abogourin, who is about to start his senior year at the Philadelphia Virtual Academy, the district's cyber school.

"I'm from Southwest Philadelphia, and I said, 'OK, what words do kids use in the classroom?'" said Abogourin.

Wack, for instance, was a no-brainer, as in "corny" or "dumb." Example: "Man, that's wack!" And there were the usual Philly suspects: cheesesteak ("Philadelphia's beloved sandwich, made with sliced steak served on a long roll. Good for breakfast, lunch or dinner"); jimmies ("No ice cream cone is complete without jimmies, which are known to be the rest of the world as sprinkles"); and water ice ("Pronounced wooden ice, a delicious summer treat that is synonymous with Italian ice").

"We had authentic Philly conversations and said, 'Hey, yo, that jawn is crazy. We need to add that!'" said Ryans.

In the end, 22 terms found their way into the glossary, which the authors summarized to great reviews at the district's new hire orientation this month.

Remember, they said: Not every student will connect with you right away. Build trust over time.

"With many students, it'll be easy," the students wrote. "However, there will be some students who seem to be unmotivated or unattached in the classroom. These

are the students that you should love the most."

Keep a few themes in mind, the students urged teachers: Recognize the positive, keep an open mind, engage me, understand your students, and equality vs. equity.

On that theme, they shared a scenario. Say a student is struggling in class because his parents work long hours, he often babysits younger siblings. And say the teacher — call her Mrs. Hill — reaches out to the student to figure out what's going on, then offers extra help on her lunch break. The student takes advantage of it, and his grades improve dramatically.

"Mrs. Hill established equity inside the classroom," the handbook reads. "She could have easily ignored the student's problem and still expected him to do well in her class. This may have eventually led to him shutting everyone out and not performing to his best capabilities. However, since she went out of her way to establish equity, the student now feels that someone sees potential in him and that if he really tries, he is able to perform at his best. This will stick with him for the rest of his life."

Bottom line? Yo, avoid being wack. Read this book, teachers.

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NATION

Drag Queen Story Hour riles up conservatives

By KEVIN MCGILL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Once upon a time, in 2015, a writer in San Francisco named Michelle Tea got the idea for "Drag Queen Story Hour": men in full drag reading children's books to kids and parents in programs aimed at providing "positive and unabashedly queer role models."

Since then, Drag Queen Story Hours have been held at libraries or bookstores in big cities including Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and costume-loving New Orleans — where over-the-top hair, makeup and gowns and stories about gender fluidity aren't exactly new.

In some smaller communities, however, the programs have sparked protests from conservative and religious groups.

In Lafayette, La., west of New Orleans, the president of the local public library board resigned amid debate over plans to hold Drag Queen Story Hour, and Mayor Joel Robideaux has indicated he may seek to cancel the Oct. 6 program.

A handful of protesters showed up in the rain outside an August event at a library branch in Columbus, Ga., according to the Ledger-Enquirer.

And on its Facebook page, a group called Common Sense Campaign Tea Party is calling for protests of a planned Sept. 8 event at a public library in Mobile, Ala. That's where drag queen Khloe Kash is scheduled to read "Rainbow Fish," a 1992 story about the value of sharing, and "Stella Brings the Family," about a little girl fretting over what to do about her school's upcoming Mother's Day celebration because she has two fathers.

"It's growing all over the nation, including the South," Jonathan Hamilt, a New Yorker who provides help in organizing the story hours nationwide, told The Associated Press. He said there are DOSH chapters in 40 states and in other countries.

He acknowledges that the story hours draw protests in some cities. But he has also been surprised at the acceptance it has received in some rural areas and conservative states such as Wisconsin and Georgia, where he grew up.

"You never know how the community is going to react to the programming," Hamilt said. "It's kind of a toss-up."

Critics see something sinister.

"The program is designed to purposely target children so as to make sexual perversion acceptable through repeated exposure," a poster on the Common Sense Campaign Tea Party Facebook page reads. AL.com reported that opponents at a Mobile County Commission meeting described



PHOTOS BY SCOTT THREKELD, THE (BATON ROUGE, LA.) ADVOCATE/AP

Vanessa Carr, far right, reads to children during Drag Queen Story Hour at the Alvar Library in New Orleans on Aug. 25.

the programs as a "plan to indoctrinate children."

But so far, the reading sessions are still on. At a Mobile City Council meeting, according to news accounts, some members expressed sympathy with opponents but also cited First Amendment concerns that made them reluctant to try to block the program.

In Lafayette, the planned October story hour is being coordinated by members of the Delta Lambda Phi Sorority at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. The national fraternity, founded by gay men in 1986, issued a news release supporting the chapter as the controversy erupted last month.

"This program teaches love, diversity and acceptance — powerful and positive messages from which all can benefit," it said.

'The program is designed to purposely target children so as to make sexual perversion acceptable through repeated exposure.'

Common Sense Campaign Tea Party

Facebook page post



Carr, right, and Blazen Haven sing "The Hokey Pokey" with the children.

NATION

'Chicken of the trees'



Iguanas gather in June on a seawall in Hallandale Beach, Fla.

PHOTOS BY MIKE STOCKER, SOUTH (FORT LAUDERDALE) FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL/AP

Some South Florida residents eyeing invasive iguanas as tasty treats

BY ELLIE RUSHING

South Florida Sun Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — While many people view South Florida's invasive iguana population as an annoyance at best and a pandemic at worst, Ishmeal Asson sees something else: lunch.

The Fort Lauderdale resident and native Trinidadian considers eating iguanas to be a way of life. Growing up, Asson learned to roast the island critters at roadside and backyard gatherings. Iguana is a staple in the Caribbean, where the reptiles are a native species and are known as "pollo de los arboles," or chicken of the trees. Their meat contains more protein than chicken meat does, and members of some cultures believe it has medicinal properties.

In South Florida, Asson is hardly alone in his taste for cooked iguana. He has more than a dozen friends who eat the animals, and they frequently hunt them using nets, snares and traps. "We are having a cookout this weekend," he said.

Asson said he and his friends use a traditional method of preparing iguana. "First, we cut off the head, then roast (the body) on the fire. You have to roast it with the skin on because it's easier to take the skin off once it's roasted," he said. "Then, we cut it up into pieces and season it with a lot of fresh produce like chives and onions. I love to season it with curry and hot pepper, too. It tastes like chicken."

As someone who has eaten iguanas his entire life, Asson still finds humor in eating the prehistoric-looking reptiles. "I prefer to eat it with the skin on," he said, "because then I know what I'm eating. It kind of gives you a sense



Iguana meat contains more protein than chicken meat does, and is gaining in popularity as a meal item.

of humor, like, 'This is iguana, you know?'

While Asson and other South Florida iguana lovers can nab the lizards for free and with little difficulty, their peers in other states order iguana meat from companies such as Exotic Meat Markets. Anshu Pathak, owner of the California-based company, told the South Florida Sun Sentinel that he imports 10,000 pounds of iguana a month from Florida trappers.

He said that his company, which sells such items as lion steak and raccoon sausage, is helping to control the iguana population.

"I am making iguana sausages, hot dogs, iguana burgers," Pathak said. "I am trying to do anything and everything to make them palatable to the public. The industry is only growing."

He said he sells the meat to customers and restaurants across the U.S., offering boneless meat for \$59.99 per pound and whole, skin-on iguana for \$49.99.

Pathak said he used to import iguanas from Puerto Rico but

now gets them from trappers in Florida. He said that trappers sometimes send the reptiles frozen, but mostly transport them alive and by airplane.

"A lot of my customers want them whole, with guts in," he said.

Pathak said his facility has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. When he receives live iguanas, he said, he puts them into a freezer to kill them.

The FDA did not respond to inquiries about the consumption and commercialization of iguana meat.

Selling iguanas requires a Florida wildlife license, though a permit is not needed to possess one, according to Robert Klepper, law enforcement media spokesman for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. There is no prohibition on who can buy an iguana, Klepper said.

Brian Wood, owner of All American Gator, an alligator-processing and iguana-trapping company in Hollywood, is avidly

searching for a market for his trapped iguanas. Wood said he captures more than 1,000 of the creatures per month.

"I feel bad just killing them and wasting it, so I started keeping them," he said.

Now, more than 1,000 of the lizards live on his iguana farm in LaBelle, in Hendry County. Because he captures so many, Wood said he feeds some to his alligators and turns others into wallets.

"With the number of iguanas I catch, I could make a fortune off selling them if I could find a market," Wood said. "When I first started selling alligator, people asked, 'Who would eat alligator?' Now, I sell 80,000 pounds of it a year."

Florida isn't the only place where the lizards run rampant. Green iguanas began to take over Puerto Rico in the early 2000s, undermining roadways, chomping on native plants and harassing islanders. It was when they started obliterating the island's crops that residents asked the government for help.

A bounty of up to \$6 per pound was placed on the creatures' heads. Similar to in Florida's pythons, the Puerto Rican government issued permits in 2012 for private companies to legally hunt iguanas, said Daniel Galan-Kercado, who was secretary of Natural Resources for Puerto Rico at the time.

"It was very effective in the first two years. They were capturing maybe 200 to 300 per week," Galan-Kercado said.

Private entities paid hunters for iguanas and then processed and exported the meat to the U.S., Central America and Asia, he said. Some Puerto Ricans also started farming iguana, and it be-

came a significant industry.

Commercializing iguanas provided an answer for Puerto Rico, but so far, no iguana export industry operates in Florida. Moreover, the reptile is far from appearing on most Floridians' dinner tables.

"You just have to try it, though," said Brittany Peters, who made an iguana-inspired meal for the first time during a recent trip to South Florida.

With no experience cooking the beasties, Peters went with a simpler route than roasting the meat over an open flame — she made burritos. Peters shot two green iguanas in the Keys, then skinned, boiled and breaded the meat at her relatives' home in Fort Lauderdale.

She boiled the skinned body for about an hour, then picked off the tender meat. She added a chili lime seasoning from Trader Joe's before sauteing it with onions.

Peters paired the white meat with sour cream, cilantro, avocado and lime for a "delicious" reptile burrito.

(A note of caution to veteran and would-be iguana eaters: Although it is illegal to do so, nuisance iguanas are occasionally poisoned. Before biting into iguana meat, make sure it does not contain any poisons or other harmful substances.)

As an avid hunter, Peters lets none of the animals she kills go to waste. "If you're going to participate in killing them, (iguana) is good enough, healthy enough and tasty enough that you should absolutely take the time to cook it, too," Peters said.

Overall, she gives her recipe three stars, but only because she's not a chef. "With some classes, I think I could get it to taste even better," she said.


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OPINION

By DAVID IGNATIUS
Washington Post Writers Group

As the Syrian tragedy lurches toward a bloody final showdown in Idlib province, the Trump administration is struggling to check Russia and the Syrian regime from an assault there that U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warns would be a "humanitarian catastrophe."

The administration's efforts are so late in coming, and so limited, that it's hard to muster much hope they can reverse seven years of American failure. But at least the administration has stopped the dithering and indecision of the last 18 months and signaled that the U.S. has enduring interests in Syria, beyond killing Islamic State terrorists — and that it's not planning to withdraw its special operations forces from the repressive Syrian regime soon.

"Right now, our job is to help create quagmires [for Russia and the Syrian regime] until we get what we want," said one administration official, explaining the effort to resist an Idlib onslaught. This approach involves reassuring the three key U.S. allies on Syria's border — Israel, Turkey and Jordan — of continued American involvement.

President Donald Trump's personal commitment to Syria is unclear, given his frequent past comments that America's role there should be limited to fighting terrorists. But the revamped policy appears to have the backing of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who recently appointed Jim Jeffrey, a respected former ambassador to Iraq and Turkey, to coordinate Syria engagement.

This 11th-hour rediscovery of Syria is

painful, because it comes as America is mourning the death of Sen. John McCain, who anguished in his final years about America's inability to check the slaughter there. McCain believed that because of feckless policy, America was complicit in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Syrian civilians.

The administration has signaled a stiffer stance by warning Russia against its planned escalation in Idlib, which Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov described Wednesday as "a festering abscess" that must be "liquidated." Russia has mobilized about 15 ships near Syria as a prelude to a final assault. National security adviser John Bolton warned publicly last month that the U.S. would respond "very strongly" if President Bashar Assad's regime used chemical weapons.

Idlib, located in the northwest corner of Syria, has become a haven for terrorists, anti-government fighters and desperate civilians who arrived after the fall of Aleppo and Deraa. The province's population is now about 3 million, swelled by perhaps a million refugees. In the Idlib cauldron are about 10,000 hard-core al-Qaida fighters, along with foreign jihadis who joined the ISLAM caliphate.

Turkey fears that a massive assault on Idlib could drive as many as 2.5 million refugees north toward the Turkish border. From there, some (including terrorists) would try to make their way to Europe, creating a new security nightmare for countries already panicked by refugees. Staffan de Mistura, the U.N. envoy for Syria, recently described Idlib as a "perfect storm." In this case, that overused metaphor seems apt.

U.S. goals in Syria have been sketched publicly by Pompeo and Mattis: withdraw-

al of all Iranian-commanded forces from the country, rather than just from a 50-mile buffer zone along the Israel border, as in the deal Russia arranged, and a political transition that can prevent Syria from becoming a terrorist base again and stabilize it enough that refugees can return to their homes. Pompeo and Mattis want more American involvement in the Geneva deliberations on a political transition too.

The challenge is convincing Syria's neighbors that America's influence still matters, particularly when Russia and the Assad regime seem poised for victory. Israel has worked closely with Moscow this year as it struck Iranian targets in Syria. But Israeli officials say they've concluded that only America can drive Iranian commanders from the field. Jordan, too, has welcomed Russian help in reopening its border crossing with Syria, but Amman's survival depends on U.S. aid.

Turkey poses the trickiest problem. Its relations with America are poisonous these days because of the botched deal to free pastor Andrew Brunson. But on the ground in Syria, cooperation is far better than six months ago, thanks to a face-saving accord between Turkish forces and U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters. Russia doesn't have all the answers, in other words.

The paradox of Syria is that the most stable area now is probably the northeast, where U.S. forces operate alongside Kurdish-led militias, Sunni opposition groups, Turkish-backed fighters and elements friendly to the regime. If the U.S. really means to be back in the Syria game, it must prevent the Idlib bloodbath — and then encourage this same process of coexistence across the country.

What apocalyptic vision guides our president?

By KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

As the late Sen. John McCain's departing call to national unity reverberated across America last week, Donald Trump's prediction of violence should Democrats prevail in November's midterm elections seemed both discordant and, well, weird.

The president issued his dire warning on Aug. 27 — two days after McCain's death — to a gathering of evangelical pastors at the White House. Trump warned that if they didn't rally their parishioners to turn out and vote Republican, Democrats "will overturn everything that we've done, and they'll do it quickly and violently."

I've rarely rubbed my chin raw from stroking it for answers.

What sort of apocalyptic vision guides our commander in chief? What level of paranoia inspires such hyperbolic projections?

These questions are tendered as rhetorical exercise. We know what petty perfidy this president has created for himself. And, sadly for the country, it needn't have been this way. Given the atypically toward Hillary Clinton, Trump might have won the election without appealing to raw emotion and base fears. Later, he might have changed his tune as president and tried to appeal to a broader cross-section of Americans. Who knows? As McCain said, in this country nothing is inevitable. Trump might have united the nation in common cause.

Instead, he chose the ugly path. From immigration, to health care and tax overhauls, to foreign policy, Trump took the

low road. Thus, the less rhetorical question is: How do these evangelical pastors sleep at night?

We know that many conservatives voted for Trump because he promised to appoint conservative judges to the Supreme Court. We also know that Trump ran away with the evangelical vote.

But one must ask these men and women of the cloth: Is it really more important to hope for a Supreme Court that might reverse (or, more realistically, erode) Roe v. Wade than it is to have a president of whom we can be proud? In whom we can trust to be thoughtful, honest and impervious to every little slight?

Does same-sex marriage, which a majority of Americans support, offend these church leaders that they'd rather risk a nuclear matchup with North Korea? Or an increasingly tenuous relationship with Russia and China owing to Trump's carelessness of power to intimidate, insult and badger our geopolitical foes? This month, Russia is set to hold war games — its largest since the dissolution of the Soviet Union — and China's army will be involved.

Is this of no consequence to those who preach the word of God? Granting the benefit of the doubt, Trump's supporters early on might have deluded themselves into believing he wouldn't be *that* bad. But what's their excuse now?

But Trump was surely serious when he spoke about the darkness that would descend upon the land if Republicans lost the House. One would have thought he was speaking of Islamic State or the Taliban, not fellow Americans with a different point of view. Even stranger, he mentioned vio-

lence in the context of antifa, a loose group of anti-fascists who are militant in their protest of white supremacists, who have celebrated Trump's presidency as a giant step for white mankind.

If Republicans do lose Congress in the fall, it won't be because evangelicals didn't turn out to vote, though that surely would be a redemptive act. It will be because of Trump himself. A Washington Post/ABC News poll released Friday found that 60 percent of Americans disapprove of Trump's job performance. The same survey also found that 63 percent support special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 campaign. And 62 percent said they support Attorney General Jeff Sessions, whom Trump has been threatening to fire. A Democratic victory in the midterms will happen because of the GOP's silence in the face of Trump's untenable behavior; their lack of courage in condemning his Draconian execution of policies; and the utter hypocrisy of allowing such a foul-mouthed, race-baiting misogynist to occupy the Oval Office after many of these same paragons of virtue impeached Bill Clinton for lying about his irresponsible affair with an intern.

Violence isn't likely should Republicans lose, but impeachment probably is. This is what Trump anticipates and fears. If evangelical pastors really want to help the country, they should urge their parishioners to read McCain's last testament and heed his words: "We weaken our greatness when we confuse our patriotism with rivalries that have sown resentment and hatred and violence in all the corners of the globe."

OPINION

US-Iran relationship status? It's complicated.

By JASON REZAIAN
The Washington Post

In 1955, the United States and Iran entered into a treaty that, although rarely mentioned, has remained in force. And even today, both governments still make use of it when they deem it useful.

The Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations, and Consular Rights continues to play a surprising role in the relationship between the two countries.

Article I could not be clearer: "There shall be firm and enduring peace and sincere friendship between the United States of America and Iran."

In the wake of the Iranian Revolution and subsequent hostage-taking of American diplomats, the two sides severed almost all diplomatic and political ties — and, for reasons not entirely clear, they didn't nullify this agreement. Relations have never been normalized, even despite the period of engagement during the Obama years that led to the landmark nuclear deal in 2015.

This peculiar history has a direct bearing on the fate of at least one U.S. citizen — Siamak Namazi — who is serving time in Tehran's notorious Evin prison for supposedly collaborating with a "hostile government," namely the United States.

That's a charge often leveled at dual

nationals (including me) by the Iranian judiciary. Yet at the same time, bizarrely, Iran's supreme court has previously ruled — citing the treaty and other variables — that the Islamic Republic of Iran has no enemies. (Except for Israel, which Tehran doesn't even consider to be a country.)

Now, remarkably, Iran is using the same treaty as the basis for a legal case it's currently pursuing against the United States at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Iran is taking the United States to court for violating the nuclear deal, from which the Trump administration withdrew this year. "The U.S. is publicly propagating a policy intended to damage as severely as possible Iran's economy and Iranian national companies, and therefore inevitably Iranian nationals," Mohsen Mehbati, who is representing Iran, said in his opening arguments. "This policy is plainly in violation of the 1955 Treaty of Amity."

The absurdity and hypocrisy of invoking the treaty when it's beneficial and ignoring its existence when it's not — in this case in the same week — illustrates Iran's "have your cake and eat it, too" attitude in international affairs, which is where the Namazi case comes into play.

"We expect that, given the Government of Iran's confirmation of the validity of the Treaty of Amity, the Iranian Supreme Court will overturn the Namazis' conviction."

Jared Genser, a lawyer representing the Namazi family in the United States, said Tuesday. He's referring to a similar verdict in a case brought against Namazi's father, Bager, who is also a U.S. citizen. "Iran cannot, on the one hand, invoke the Treaty of Amity when filing complaints against the U.S. with the I.C.J. and, then, on the other, classify the U.S. as a 'hostile' government in order to sustain these convictions."

Iran has displayed extreme inconsistency in deciding when it honors the treaty. It would be well-advised to start honestly implementing the treaty in its handling of the Namazi case and others. Doing so would certainly give it a much stronger negotiating position when it comes to the nuclear deal and renewed sanctions.

And there is, in fact, a corresponding precedent.

In 2014, an Iranian convicted of similar charges was acquitted by a branch of the country's supreme court on the grounds that "presently no government is in a state of hostility with Iran." The decision further concluded that political differences with another country were not sufficient justification to consider it "hostile."

That's the crux of the appeal that the Namazis' Iranian lawyers have filed with Iran's judiciary, as well as the one Genser made with the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers.

And yet the very same Iranian leaders who claim that the country's judiciary is entirely independent have politicized the Namazi case from the start, putting him at the center of a high-profile propaganda campaign.

Iran is desperately trying to be considered a responsible and law-abiding member of the international community. The United Nations is the only international club that Iran belongs to, and it fancies itself a member in good standing. Several weeks from now Iranian leaders — especially President Hassan Rouhani and his foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif — will descend on New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly.

They will undoubtedly use the opportunity to privately (in meetings with world leaders) and publicly (through the media) make their case against U.S. sanctions. It will be interesting to see whether they once again invoke the Treaty of Amity.

But the ho-hum-than proclamations they will undoubtedly make will ring hollow when juxtaposed with the reality that Iran is defying its own laws (and the decisions of its highest court) by continuing the unjust detention of Siamak Namazi.

Jason Rezaian is a writer for Global Opinions. He served as The Washington Post's correspondent in Tehran from 2010 to 2016. He spent 544 days unjustly imprisoned by Iranian authorities until his release in January 2016.

VA cites slow-rolled Agent Orange report to oppose bill

By TOM PHILPOTT
Special to Stars and Stripes

More than two years ago, in March 2016, the Department of Veterans Affairs received the latest in a series of scientific literature reviews from the National Academy of Medicine on Agent Orange-associated ailments.

This included the possibility that the VA might add as many as four new conditions — bladder cancer, polyhydramnios, Parkinson-like tremors and perhaps even hypertension — to its list of 14 illnesses it presumes have been caused by exposure to herbicides the U.S. military sprayed during the Vietnam War.

The report delivered in 2016 moved bladder cancer and polyhydramnios from "inadequate or insufficient" evidence of association to herbicide exposure up to the "limited or suggestive" evidence of association. That's the same level the VA previously relied upon to award Agent Orange benefits for conditions including laryngeal cancer, cancers of the lung, bronchus or trachea, and prostate cancer.

Hypertension (high blood pressure), the report said, remained in the "limited or suggestive evidence" category too, where it was placed in a previous study. That's the same evidence level used to add ischemic heart disease to the Agent Orange presumptive disease list for near automatic award of benefits.

The Academy also clarified that Vietnam veterans with "Parkinson-like symptoms," but without a formal diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, should be considered eligible for presumption of exposure to Agent Orange, just as Parkinson's disease previously was connected to service in Vietnam.

At the same time, the birth defect spina bifida in the offspring of Vietnam veterans was demoted by the Academy since its last report, from the "limited or suggestive" association category down to "inadequate or insufficient."

The Academy, previously called the Institute of Medicine, delivered this last re-

MILITARY UPDATE

port, Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 2014, after a panel of scientific experts spent two years reviewing the latest medical literature on health effects of dioxin and other harmful compounds in herbicides associated with certain diseases.

VA officials promised to review the results and that then-VA Secretary Bob McDonald would act on the Academy report's findings by July 2016. With this report, however, the secretary faced no timeline for reaching a decision. That's because Congress had allowed a statutory 180-day deadline governing secretarial actions on Agent Orange scientific reviews to expire in 2015.

The consequence has been that the Obama administration in its final year did nothing more than study the report. The same has been true with the Trump administration during its first 19 months. While Vietnam veterans with, for example, bladder cancer await a decision on whether they will gain VA health care and compensation, the VA has been silent on the 2016 Academy findings.

That changed slightly on Aug. 1. During a hearing of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee dominated by discussion of the House-passed Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act (H.R. 299), VA Undersecretary for Benefits Paul R. Lawrence and the VA's chief consultant on post-deployment health, Dr. Ralph Erickson, referred to the latest Academy report on Agent Orange. They did so not to propose that a disease be added to the VA's list of conditions presumed caused by Agent Orange. Instead they cited the report to urge senators to reject a House amendment to H.R. 299 that would extend Agent Orange benefits to certain Vietnam-era veterans who served in Thailand and had children born with spina bifida.

In his written testimony, Lawrence said the VA "is concerned there is continued

scientific uncertainty surrounding the association of spina bifida and exposure to Agent Orange. As found in the last relevant (Academy) report, an association between spina bifida and exposure to Agent Orange is no longer shown."

Erickson reinforced the point with Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark., after the senator said he was glad to see the House bill included a bill he had co-sponsored to provide Agent Orange benefits "to any child of a veteran with covered service in Thailand who is affected by spina bifida." If the Senate passed an identical bill, said Boozman, children of Thailand service veterans would get "the same health care, monetary allowance and vocational training" given children of Vietnam veterans with spina bifida.

"Are you all for or against that provision?" Boozman asked.

Erickson noted that the Academy in 2016 "actually downgraded the evidence for there being an association of spina bifida and the children of Vietnam veterans. That doesn't mean the VA withdraws that benefit. However, at the present time, extending the benefit further is a little tricky because the scientific foundation per the National Academy of Medicine has diminished remarkably."

Following the hearing we asked if VA officials weren't using the Academy report selectively now — ignoring it as a justification to add ailments to the Agent Orange presumptive list but citing it to try to block benefits to more veterans with children born with spina bifida. The department challenged that view.

"Citing a specific scientific report to discuss pending legislation (H.R. 299) is nothing other than a reasonable and relevant way to address specific legislative provisions under consideration," said Curt Cashour, VA press secretary.

"The issue of additional Agent Orange presumptive conditions is completely separate from H.R. 299, and the notion that the two issues must always be discussed together is contrary to what VA and the Senate committee were specifically examining

at the Aug. 1 hearing," Cashour added.

Carlos Fuentes, director of national legislation for Veterans of Foreign Wars, said the Academy's downgrade of evidence associated with spina bifida means more research is needed. That's why the VFW "has pushed for passage of the Toxic Exposure Research Act to require (the Academy) to evaluate what research is needed to determine whether descendants of exposed veterans are impacted," he said.

Meanwhile VFW is urging the VA secretary "to make a decision as soon as possible" on the other conditions reviewed in the last Academy report.

Those decisions may pass to Robert Wilkie, the new VA secretary. We asked the VA when Wilkie plans to announce decisions on these other ailments.

"We have no announcements on Agent Orange presumptive conditions at this time," said spokesman Cashour.

After then-Secretary McDonald opted to leave those decisions for the Trump administration, Dr. David Shulkin became the new president's first VA secretary. Shulkin had served as McDonald's top health official during that period when teams of experts at the VA spent months reviewing the Academy's last report.

By summer of 2017, Shulkin had promised a decision on adding new ailments to the presumptive list by Nov. 1. He later told the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee he had delivered his recommendations by that date to the White House's Office of Management and Budget. But the OMB had "asked for some additional data to be able to ... get financial estimates for this. So, we are committed ... to get this resolved in the very near future," Shulkin said.

Shulkin was fired in March this year before revealing which conditions, if any, he wanted added to the presumptive list. That his recommendations had costs that the OMB needed to assess suggests Shulkin wanted at least one more ailment to qualify for Agent Orange benefits.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 23111, Centreville, VA 20120; email milupdate@aol.com; Twitter: [@Military_Update](https://twitter.com/Military_Update).

WORLD

Car bomb kills at least 6 in Somalia

By ABDI GULED
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — At least six people were killed, including two children, when a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle outside a district headquarters in Somalia's capital, authorities said Sunday.

Capt. Mohamed Hussein said the bomber tried to speed through a checkpoint but was stopped by security forces, prompting him to detonate the vehicle near the gate of Howwadag district headquarters.

The three soldiers who stopped the truck were killed instantly and the three others were civilians, said the Mogadishu mayor's spokesman, Salah Hassan Omar.

Fourteen people, including six children, needed intensive care, said the Aamin Ambulance service. Among the wounded was deputy district commissioner Ibrah Hassan Matan.

Many victims were students at a nearby Islamic school. Officials warned there could be more casualties as the blast brought down nearby buildings including a mosque.

"I saw bodies strewn on the ground after the explosion before the ambulances and the paramedics reached the scene and the whole scene was very ugly," witness Halima Mohamed said.

The attacker "literally failed to achieve their goal of inflicting maximum casualties," police captain Hussein said, accusing the al-Qaida-linked extremist group al-Shabab of carrying



A Somali soldier walks near the wreckage of vehicles at the scene of an explosion outside the compound of a district headquarters in Mogadishu, Somalia, on Sunday.

FARAH ABDI WARSAMEH/AP

out the attack.

Al-Shabab later claimed responsibility for the explosion, which shattered a period of calm in seaside Mogadishu. The Somalia-based al-Shabab often targets the capital with bombings, including a truck bombing in October that left at least 512 people dead.

Somali troops are meant to take over the

Horizon of Africa nation's security in the coming years from an African Union force but concerns about their readiness remain high. The U.N. Security Council recently voted to delay the reduction of troops in the AU force from October to February and the target date to hand over security to Somali forces to December 2021.

Russians rally against pension age change

By JIM HEINTZ
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russians held rallies throughout the country Sunday to protest a government plan to raise the age for receiving state pensions.

Several thousand people gathered in central Moscow for a protest organized by the Communist Party. Another Moscow protest organized by the A Just Russia party attracted about 1,500 people.

Other demonstrations were reported in at least a dozen cities throughout the country including Vladivostok in the Far East, Simferopol in Russia-annexed Crimea and Omsk, Barnaul and Novosibirsk in Siberia.

No arrests were immediately reported. The rallies had official sanction.

The plan was introduced in June and has passed first-reading in the lower house of parliament. But widespread opposition has persisted, and President Vladimir Putin's approval ratings in polls have fallen noticeably since



PAVEL GOLOVIN/AP

A man holds a banner in his mouth that reads "An all-Russian protest against pension reform" during a Communist Party rally in Moscow on Sunday.

the plan was announced.

In an unusual televised address to the nation, Putin last week conceded that the pension age for women will be raised only to 60 rather than the proposed 63. The current pension age for women is 55.

The plan would retain the raising of the men's pension age from 60 to 65, implementing the steps up over five years.

Younger opponents of the move fear that keeping older people in the workforce longer will shrink their own job opportunities, while older people complain that they may not live long enough to collect significant benefits.

Russia's average life expectancy was notoriously low in the 1990s, but has risen in recent years and is now about 67 for men and 78 for women.

The pension reform was announced in June on the eve of the opening of the Russia-hosted soccer World Cup, and many critics saw the timing as an attempt to introduce a controversial idea while Russians were distracted by the tournament's excitement.

But Putin's polling numbers dropped significantly. A weekly survey by the Fund For Public Opinion found 61 percent saying they fully or mostly trusted Putin in mid-August, down from 75 percent just before the pension reform proposal.

Mexican city tells police to ignore most public sex

Associated Press

GUADALAJARA, Mexico — It's now less risky to get frisky in public in Guadalajara.

Mexico's second-largest city has made it harder to police sexual activity in places such as parks, alleys, entertainment venues and cars by ordering cops to look the other way most of the time.

Proponents say the change protects the publicly amorous from being shaken down by bribe-happy officers, a common practice, while critics worry that it could encourage lewd acts in full view of people just going about their

day.

Under the modification to the Policing and Good Government Code passed in August, public sexual acts continue to be an administrative offense, sanctioned by a fine or brief detention. The change is that officers can intervene in such dalliances only if they've received a specific complaint from a third party who feels uncomfortable.

"The only thing we added is that for police to detain that couple, a citizens' request is required," said Guadalupe Morfin, a city councilor who proposed the measure. She argued that it would discour-

age police corruption, refocus officers on more serious offenses and not lead to any increase in lewd behavior.

But Livier Martinez, of the conservative National Action Party, the only council member to vote nay, argued that there are other ways to tackle corruption. It flouts Jalisco state civil code articles on morality and exhibitionism, she added, and may leave police unsure what they can and cannot do in such cases.

There are no reliable statistics to say how common public sex actually is, in part because such cases almost never make it

into the judicial system. Instead, they're settled on the street by bribing cops to avoid a trip to the station.

What are very common, however, are stories of police demanding bribes over more tame behavior. "Sometimes they're not even having sex in public, just kissing or things like that. But (police) do it to get money, to take advantage of this," said Andrea Quintana, a student in Guadalajara. "So I think it's good that now they have to have proof that someone was really doing something bad to have to take them away."

UK prime minister says no to second Brexit vote

LONDON — Britain's prime minister has again spoken out against calls for a second referendum on Britain's decision to split with the European Union.

Theresa May wrote in the Sunday Telegraph that it would be a "gross betrayal of our democracy" to have another vote.

She said "millions came out to have their say" in the June 2016 vote that set Brexit in motion.

Her embattled government has faced increasingly strident calls for another vote once the terms of Britain's future relations with the EU are known.

Britain is expected to leave the EU in March and enter a transition phase.

Chinese police detain 46 after violent protest

BEIJING — Police in central China detained 46 people who were part of a protest against a government plan to address overcrowded classrooms that escalated into violence.

Police in the city of Leiyang in Hunan province said on their official microblog that the people were detained early Sunday as officers dispersed around 600 protesters who had gathered outside the local police station Saturday night.

An official at the Leiyang city government who would give only his surname, Zeng, said the protesters were protesting the city government's plan to transfer students from overcrowded public schools to expensive private schools.

Thief tries to steal hearse with body inside

MEXICO CITY — Police in central Mexico said they caught a man who made off with a hearse — complete with a corpse inside.

The Tlaquepaque police department said its Facebook page that the hearse had been readied to take the body of an 80-year-old man from a hospital in neighboring Guadalajara to a funeral home.

Police said a 40-year-old man admitted seeing the keys left in the vehicle and decided to take it late Friday night.

Officers were alerted and they soon spotted the hearse along a highway and detained the suspect.

9 injured in blaze at German refinery

BERLIN — Nine people were injured in a blaze at an oil refinery in Bavaria, and another 1,800 people living close by were temporarily evacuated.

Police said the fire spread quickly after a loud detonation was heard early Saturday in the southern German town of Vohburg an der Donau. A huge smoke cloud could be seen miles away.

Residents were evacuated because of possibly toxic fumes. Air tests later showed it was safe for people to return to their homes.

The German news agency dpa reported all nine injured were Bayernoil refinery employees.

Authorities said the cause of the explosion was not known.

From The Associated Press

WORLD

Seeds of a small revolution



A tractor runs among vineyards during the grape harvest season in the Champagne region of Chouilly, eastern France.

PHOTOS BY THIBAULT CAMUS/AP



From left: Winemaker Jean-Pierre Vazart poses among the vineyards during the grape harvest season in Chouilly; workers last Tuesday pick grapes during the harvest season; a worker transports grapes from the vineyard.



To counter effects of global warming, scientists in France try to develop new grape varieties

By ELAINE GANLEY
Associated Press

CHOUILLY, France

Jean-Pierre Vazart has more than a dozen weather apps on his phone. But the winemaker, who grows Chardonnay grapes in France's Champagne region, is still stressed out.

Temperatures have risen 2.16 degrees Fahrenheit in 30 years, and pickers are scrambling to bring in yet another early harvest. The specter of climate change is haunting the vineyards of France, and its creeping effects, including chaotic weather, are becoming the new normal.

For now, winemakers say they are benefiting from the warmer temperatures, with ripe grapes begging to be picked. But Vazart, 50, is worried a sudden hailstorm could devastate his succulent white grapes before the end of his 12-day harvest period, which began Aug. 27.

Rainstorms and hail compromised last year's less abundant Champagne harvest.

"The stress is with you ... until the last day," said Vazart from Chouilly, near Eper-

nay, the epicenter of the Champagne region, which counts some 15,000 winegrowers.

It's the fifth time in 15 years that the harvest — traditionally a September ritual that can run into October — has started so early, according to Comite Champagne, which groups all industry players.

To counter the effects of global warming, scientists are planting the seeds of a small revolution in Champagne country: inseminating flowering grapes with pollen from lab plants to try to develop more weather-resistant varieties.

If successful, the process would add to the seven authorized Champagne grape varieties — with Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Meunier mainly used — to create the crisp, bubbly Champagne with its perfect mellow notes.

Creating new grape varieties might once have been unthinkable in a land where each step of the Champagne-making process is rigidly codified. But grapes of the future — with new names but the taste of Champagne's "terroir" — are already being tested in three experimental vineyards. The projects, which began in 2014, may produce

one or two new grape varieties, according to Arnaud Descotes, technical and environmental director of Comite Champagne.

He stressed that results won't be known for at least a decade, and the grapes would be rejected if blind taste tests fail to ensure the bubbly is not corrupted.

The Champagne region calls itself a pioneer of sustainable development, saying it's the first in the winegrowing world to measure its carbon footprint, which it said it reduced by 7 percent from 2003 to 2013. Officials are looking to lower greenhouse gases by 25 percent in 2025. Reducing the weight of the famously heavy Champagne bottles by 65 grams was among crucial measures.

The region isn't unique in its experimental drive. Elsewhere in France, researchers are also seeking ways to create heat-friendly grapes and protect the country's wine industry, both a multibillion-dollar export market and part of the national identity.

In a taste-and-tell bid to show the effects of climate warming on the famed wines of Bordeaux, in southwest France, a noted oe-

nologue, biologist and winegrower created "2050," his wine of the future. Pascal Chatañet assembled standard varieties used in Bordeaux wines but from the French Mediterranean region of Languedoc-Roussillon and the North African nation of Tunisia.

Tasted by the publication *Science et Avenir*, it was deemed drinkable but different, with tastes of red fruit but "very ripe, a bit cooked, with a final short, chocolatey note." Not Bordeaux.

For Vazart, optimism is essential.

"If we believed only the bad news, we'd change jobs now," he said.

If we believed only the bad news, we'd change jobs now.

Jean-Pierre Vazart
winemaker in Chouilly,
France

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Dancer in wheelchair joins men's dance crew

LA NEW ORLEANS — A man in a wheelchair joined the all-male New Orleans dance crew called the 610 Stompers.

Jason Homer tried out for the group that describes itself as ordinary men with "extraordinary moves."

Local media reported he got word Sept. 26 that he had landed a coveted spot on the dance team.

"What we look for is guys with heart," said one of the Stompers, Mont Creamer, in a text message to NOLA.com/The Times-Picayune. "And this guy is a Stomper with or without the chair."

Homer lost the use of his legs in an industrial accident three years ago.

Patrol: Texting driver slammed into police car

IA AUDUBON — The Iowa State Patrol said a driver distracted by texting rammed into the back of a trooper's patrol car.

The Des Moines Register reported that the patrol reported the crash Friday in a Facebook post. The post shows a photo of the patrol car with heavy backend damage.

The patrol said the crash happened Aug. 8 when a young driver in Audubon hit the parked patrol car in a residential neighborhood near the trooper's home. Investigators said the driver had been texting and driving when the crash happened.

The driver of the car was ticketed and will pay for damages.

2 arrested at drug house with drive-thru window

FL OCALA — Authorities said they arrested two people who were running a drug business out of a mobile home with its own walk-up and drive-thru window.

An Ocala police news release said McKenzee Dobbs, 20, and William Parrish Jr., 32, were arrested recently following several overdoses connected to the house. Both face multiple charges related to the possession and sale of fentanyl, a powerful opioid painkiller.

Police said officers collected drugs, paraphernalia and cash while executing a search warrant at the home. Investigators alleged that Dobbs and Parrish had been selling drugs through a kitchen window.

Smallest city in state to double in population

ND RUSO — North Dakota's smallest incorporated city was on the verge of dissolving after the death of its longtime mayor, but now it's rebounding.

The Minot Daily News reported the McLean County community of Russo expects to soon experience a doubling of its population — from two residents to four.

State law said it takes a minimum of three residents for a community to be incorporated.

THE CENSUS

13

The number of right shoes stolen over the course of two break-ins this summer at a Roanoke, Va., shoe store. Clean Soles operator Rob Wickham said his sneaker store was raided by two people on July 20 and by one person on Aug. 25. Taken together, he lost shirts, hoodies, a jacket, one complete sneaker pair — and 13 right shoes. Wickham said he typically keeps just right shoes on display. Roanoke County police spokeswoman Amy Whittaker said one 17-year-old was charged in the July burglary. Police have released video of the Aug. 25 burglary.



MARY ALTAFFER/AP

Wigging out

Members of the audience listen to music during Wigstock on Saturday in New York. The 1980s festival, an impromptu creation of unruly patrons in drag who stumbled out of an East Village club about 2 a.m. to improvise for homeless people in Tompkins Square Park, was revived at New York City's Pier 17.

The city discovered Greg Schmaltz qualifies as a resident because he has a Russo mailbox and checks on his animals daily. Schmaltz and his wife, Michelle, plan to move to Russo later this year. He's expected to become mayor Thursday.

Lab: Powder seized is sugar, not fentanyl

NC WILMINGTON — A North Carolina sheriff's office thought it made a huge drug bust, seizing 13 pounds of suspected fentanyl worth \$2 million on the street.

The powder was found in a home along with other drugs and paraphernalia. A field test indicated it was the powerful opioid, justifying a host of charges against three suspects.

Most of those charges soon evaporated when a state lab concluded that whatever the powder was, it wasn't fentanyl.

The sheriff's office then sent the powder to a private lab, New Hanover sheriff's Lt. Jerry Brewer told WECT-TV that the powder seized in July includes no illicit ingredients, and is nothing more

than "a combination of simple and complex carbohydrates." In other words, sugar.

Cops: Wife killed spouse with eye drops in water

SC CLOVER — Authorities said a woman was charged with murder after allegedly killing her husband by putting eye drops into his water for several days.

York County deputies said Lana Clayton, 52, confessed to investigators after an autopsy found a high amount of tetrahydrozoline in her husband's body. The chemical is found in over-the-counter eye drops such as Visine.

Authorities said Stephen Clayton, 64, was found dead in the couple's Clover home July 21.

No motive was given for the alleged poisoning.

Body camera video captures fawn's rescue

OR EUGENE — An animal welfare officer in Oregon is getting attention after her rescue of a fawn was captured

on her body-worn camera.

The Eugene Police Department released a video and photo of Officer Shawni McLaughlin freeing a terrified fawn that got stuck in a backyard fence. In the video, McLaughlin wraps the fawn's head in a towel and lifts it from between two narrow fence posts as she talks to the deer.

The fawn lies on the ground for a few seconds after being freed, apparently not aware it can walk.

Volunteers assist in return of lost dog

MO KANSAS CITY — A dog that disappeared from his southern California home and mysteriously wound up in Missouri was reunited with his owner with the help of a Pony Express-style chain of cross-county volunteers.

The Kansas City Star reported that the Bernese mountain dog, named Topper, was taken to the city shelter in July after a Kansas City police officer suffered a "minor bite" during an arrest. Topper's microchip led staff to his owner, Tom Huffman, of El

Cajon, Calif.

He didn't have the money to travel to Kansas City, so volunteers stepped up to help Topper make the 1,500-mile trip home.

Pair are accused of destroying sculpture

PA HARRISBURG — Museum officials said a mother and daughter who were viewing an exhibit featuring children's playthings transformed into art destroyed a sculpture 10 minutes into the grand opening.

PennLive.com reported the women are accused of damaging the exhibit's main piece, called "Fair and Square," at the Susquehanna Art Museum in Harrisburg last month.

The sculpture featured a life-sized swing set that was welded to resemble the scales of justice. Museum director Anne Schwab said the women thought they could play on the swings and pulled them down.

Artist Sean Matthews said his piece, which took him two years to create, was insured for \$5,000. From wire reports

FACES



Musician surprises fans by releasing 10th album

Eminem has a surprise for his fans.

At midnight Aug. 31 on the East Coast, the rapper announced on Twitter the release of a new album, "Kamikaze."

"Tried not 2 overthink this 1 ... enjoy," he wrote on Twitter.

The release is his 10th studio album, and follows 2017's "Revival."

The new record has 13 tracks, and includes the song "Venom," the title track from the upcoming superhero movie featuring Tom Hardy. The album cover shows a fighter plane with the message "FU 2" near its tail.

Dr. Dre and Slim Shady are executive producers. The album features contributions from Joyner Lucas, Royce Da 5'9" and Jessie Reyez.

The album is available on Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon Music, Google Play, iTunes and Eminem's official store.

Colbert defends Fallon's Trump hair tousle

Remember the days of the late-night wars? That era is really over. Not only do the comedians collaborate on responses when President Donald Trump insults them, but they stick up for each other in interviews, as well.

Rolling Stone published a long Q&A Aug. 29 with Stephen Colbert, the "Late Show" host. The wide-ranging interview covered everything from Colbert's struggles with anxiety to his thoughts on Trump to whether he was really worried CBS would swap him with James Corden. (He was not.)

Then the reporter asked whether Colbert thought his professional rival, "Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon, got "unfairly beaten" for his infamous Trump hair tousle. You know, the 2016 incident where Fallon got intense criticism for his playful interview with Trump, where he was accused of "normalizing" the controversial presidential candidate. But Colbert defended Fallon in the strongest terms.

"I think that's a completely unfair critique of Jimmy Fallon's show. You do not go to Jimmy Fallon's show for political satire or even political discussion. He's an entertainer and he's brilliant," Colbert said. "People blame his ratings on that. But I think people just have a different appetite right now for political comedy. I think it's highly overblown, like hair-ruffling things."

It's true that Fallon's ratings dropped as Colbert's have increased, and many attribute it to the fact that Fallon typically avoids politics. While "The Tonight Show" is consistently No. 1 in the under-50 demographic, "The Late Show" has taken over as the top-ranked late-night program with the most total viewers.

Other news

■ Emmy Rossum is saying goodbye to "Shameless" after the show's upcoming season. In an emotional Facebook post Aug. 30, Rossum said playing her complex character was a "gift" and called the past eight years the best of her life. Showtime Networks programming chief Gary Levine said the network was saddened by Rossum's decision to leave and praised her work as Fiona, daughter to William H. Macy's dysfunctional patriarch, Frank.

■ A new study says that the TV industry's hiring of first-time female directors and directors of color hit record highs for the second year in a row. According to a Directors Guild of America study out Aug. 30, women represented 41 percent of first-time TV episode directors in the 2017-18 season. That's 8 percentage points higher than the previous season, the guild said. The study found that directors of color represented 31 percent of first-time hires last season, up from 27 percent in the 2016-17 season.

From wire services

Ready to ride

JD Pardo play EZ Reyes in the upcoming TV series "Mayans M.C." "It's the writing. It's everything," Pardo says about the show. "I didn't ride motorcycles. I didn't know anything about bike culture. For me to be able to dive in that as an artist makes me feel like such a kid."

'Sons of Anarchy' spin-off 'Mayans M.C.' tackles border world

BY RUSSELL CONTRERAS
Associated Press

When "Sons of Anarchy" debuted in 2008, creator Kurt Sutter repeatedly heard the same comparison: it was the poor, white working-class version of the HBO mob series, "The Sopranos."

Now that "Sons of Anarchy" spin-off "Mayans M.C." is set to launch, Sutter says he is prepared for it to inevitably be called the Latino rendition of the popular motorcycle gang drama. "But it's more than that," Sutter, the new series co-creator, told the AP.

"My hope is that as people get plugged into it ... it becomes its own thing."

Yes, "Mayans M.C." focuses on similar motorcycle outlaw themes of crime, contradictions and divided devotions as its artistic predecessor. Yet, it aims to tackle the conflicted world along the U.S.-Mexico border amid poverty, a drug war and populations with blurred nationalities. It's also filled with Mesoamerican imagery, issues of ethnicity and references to the poor conditions along the border.

The FX Networks series, which debuts Sept. 4, is set in the fictional border city of Santo Padre, Calif., and follows Ezekiel "EZ" Reyes, played by J.D. Pardo, a fresh-out-of-prison "prospect" for a chapter of the Mayans, a Mexican-American motorcycle club. (A prospect is a potential member who must prove himself to the others.) Reyes is coming to terms with his former life as a one-time promising student at Stanford University who now is inside the world of crime and Mexican cartels.

The Mayans were the sometimes rivals, sometimes allies of the Sons of Anarchy in the original series. The creators tease that Sons of Anarchy members will make occasional cameos in the new series.

Meanwhile, Ezekiel's butcher father, played by Edward James Olmos, serves as his adviser and sometimes confidante as the young Reyes seeks just to survive. Together the pair leads a majority-Latino cast who navigate the dark world of motorcycle gangs and tensions from immigration, cartel violence and race.

Pardo, a California-born son of an Argentine father and a Salvadoran mother, said he knew little about "Sons of Anarchy" until he heard about "Mayans M.C." So, one weekend, he binge watched the series and concluded he wanted the lead role in "Mayans M.C." though he'd have to educate himself.

"It's the writing. It's everything," Pardo said. "I didn't ride motorcycles. I didn't know anything about bike culture. For me to be able to dive in that as an artist makes me feel like such a kid."

But he wouldn't have to educate himself about being Latino, Pardo said. That, he already knew from family.

When "Mayans M.C." began to become a reality, Sutter said he realized immediately it needed to be different. "I also know that a white guy from Jersey shouldn't be writing a show about people of color on his own," Sutter said.

Sutter soon tapped Boston-born filmmaker Elgin James to help give the show a distinct voice and a perspective from a writer of color. James, whose family background is Irish, African American and Dominican, is a former gang member who spent a year in prison for extortion and earned acclaim for his 2011 film, "Little Birds."

James said he wanted to utilize his experience to shape "Mayans M.C." characters. Once an orphan and homeless, James said he remembers how intoxicating it was to

be feared by flashing your gang name on hats or shirts. "But what doesn't change is that you're still that little, scared kid inside," James said.

As a director, James said filming Pardo riding his motorcycle along the border fence and images of the La Virgen de Guadalupe with bullets draped around her like a soldier from the Mexican Revolution came organically. So did the introduction of the revolutionary character Adelita, played by Venezuelan actress Carla Bratton, modeled after the Mexican Revolution female soldiers known as "las adelitas."

The debut of the show at a time when immigration and President Donald Trump's rhetoric attacks of Latinos are consistently in the news was pure coincidence, James and Sutter said. Although both say they are seeking to humanize people who live on the border and those who are members of motorcycle clubs.

That humanizing effort comes without romanticizing that some motorcycle clubs are linked to a dangerous world, the creators said. Last year in New Mexico, for example, police in tourist-friendly Santa Fe were forced to increase patrols and surveillance amid tensions between two Latino motorcycle gangs — the California-based Vagos and the Texas-founded Bandidos — that sparked a drive-by shooting and a hospital lockdown.

"The show is not for everyone," Olmos said. "It's dark. It's powerful."

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Trump says he can leave Canada behind on trade

By HEATHER LONG

The Washington Post

President Donald Trump on Saturday threatened to withdraw the U.S. from the North American Free Trade Agreement, asserting his right to broker a new trade pact that does not include Canada despite opposition from lawmakers and questions over his legal authority to do so.

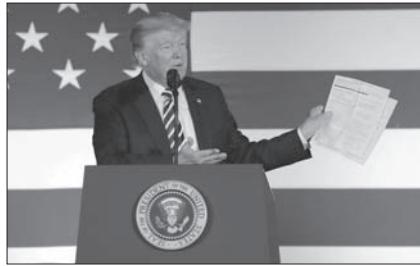
Trump on Friday formally informed Congress of his intent to enter into a trade deal with Mexico, with the notice adding the administration hopes Canada would be added to the new pact later. U.S. and Canadian negotiators worked throughout the week on adding Canada to Friday's notice, but the negotiations failed to produce an agreement ahead of Trump's own Friday deadline.

Negotiations with Canada are set to continue Wednesday in the hopes of adding Canada to the deal, and lawmakers have told Trump they will only sign onto a new NAFTA deal that includes all three North American nations.

But Trump issued a warning to both Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Congress on Saturday in a post on Twitter, writing he would go on without Canada and could unwind North American free trade if lawmakers would not support his approach.

"There is no political necessity to keep Canada in the new NAFTA deal. If we don't make a fair deal for the U.S. after decades of abuse, Canada will be out. Congress should not interfere w/ these negotiations or I will simply terminate NAFTA entirely & we will be far better off..." Trump wrote.

"We make new deal or go back to pre-NAFTA?" Trump wrote as part of a subsequent post.



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

President Donald Trump holds up a list of his administration's accomplishments while speaking Friday at a Republican fundraiser at the Carmel Country Club in Charlotte, N.C.

It's unclear whether Trump could withdraw from NAFTA without support from Congress, though he repeatedly has threatened to do so. Many lawmakers have said they would move to stop Trump if he attempts to withdraw from the deal, and the move likely would face legislative and legal challenges.

The withdrawal process would require Trump to give Mexico and Canada six months' notice of his intent to leave the pact.

Ending NAFTA without a replacement would cause large-scale economic disruption across North America and beyond. Companies accustomed to moving products across borders with few or no taxes would see costs jump — price increases that would pass to consumers — and domestic producers would find their access to foreign markets diminished.

Canada is the No. 1 destination for American products shipped abroad, and more than 8 million

U.S. jobs are supported by trade with Canada, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The move would shelter some domestic industries from foreign competition, part of Trump's aim to revitalize some domestic industries that have opted to move production overseas.

U.S. lawmakers generally have backed NAFTA, saying the overall economic benefits of cheaper products and greater efficiency have outweighed the negative consequences of job losses. But Trump has focused on areas where industrial decline has led to deep economic hardship.

Trump's renewed threat to withdraw from NAFTA comes as U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland are set to resume negotiations Wednesday.

The two sides are divided over substantive issues such as rules governing trade of dairy prod-

ucts, patent protections for pharmaceuticals, and disagreements over the process for resolving trade disputes.

Canadian officials accused the U.S. side of refusing to offer concessions. That sentiment appeared validated Friday morning when the Toronto Star published comments Trump had made in which he told Bloomberg journalists that negotiations to rework NAFTA would take place only on his terms.

Trump is attempting to get a new NAFTA deal signed before current President Enrique Pena Nieto leaves office Dec. 1. Nieto's successor, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, has had representatives at the U.S.-Mexico talks, but if the deal is not signed before he takes office, he could add new demands and complicate the deal.

That timeline was the impetus for Trump's Friday letter to Congress notifying them of the preliminary agreement with Mexico. That letter started a 90-day required notice period for Congress before the president legally can sign a new deal.

Now, under U.S. trade law, Trump has 30 days from Friday to get the final text to Congress.

If Canada is not included in that final text, it would be legally very difficult — if not impossible — to include the country later.

For Canada, losing access to the U.S. market would be a severe economic blow. And Trump has threatened further to put 25 percent tariffs on cars and auto parts sent from Canada into the U.S. — a move he could make without Congress' permission.

Foreign leaders "keep understanding Trump on trade," said Dan DiMicco, a former steel executive and trade adviser to Trump who was with the presi-

dent Friday in Charlotte, N.C. "If he's not tough on everybody, why is China going to believe he's going to be tough on them?"

But for Trump, failing to get Canada on board would set up a showdown with Congress in which all parties would be in murky legal territory. It's unclear whether the authority Trump has to renegotiate NAFTA extends to a deal just with Mexico, and lawmakers — as well as Mexican officials — continue to stress the need for Canada's inclusion.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro (costs Sept. 3)	\$1.1953
Dollar buys (Sept. 3)	0.8366
British pound (Sept. 3)	1.35
Japanese yen (Sept. 3)	109.00
South Korean won (Sept. 3)	1,085.50

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	1.2957
Canada (Dollar)	0.9509
China (Yuan)	6.8350
Denmark (Krone)	6.4280
Egypt (Pound)	1.4783
France (Euro)	1,159.70/0.8623
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8490
Iceland (Icelandic króna)	1.18
Israel (Shekel)	3.5990
Japan (Yen)	111.01
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3028
Lithuania (Litas)	0.9863
Philippines (Peso)	53.52
Poland (Złoty)	3.71
Qatar (Riyal)	3.7062
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3724
South Korea (Won)	1,161.55
Spain (Euro)	0.8650
Thailand (Baht)	32.79
Turkey (Lira)	6.5805

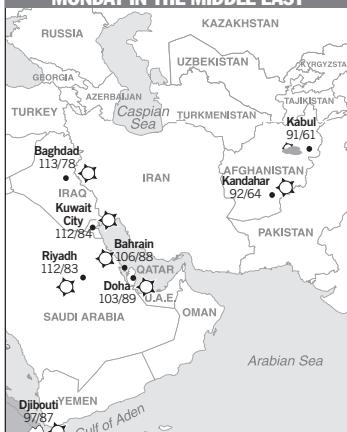
These exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. They are not the official rates in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., rates for currencies not listed above), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates and are not necessarily the buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.

INTEREST RATES

Prime	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.92
3-month bill	2.05
30-year bond	3.01

WEATHER OUTLOOK

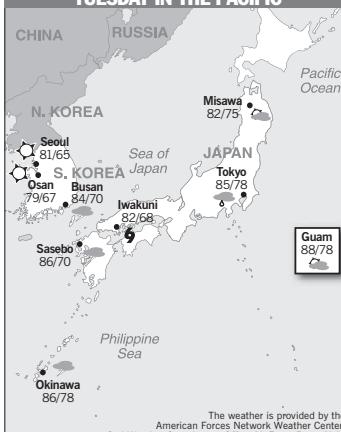
MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE



TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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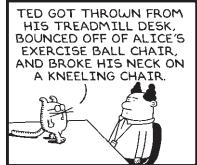
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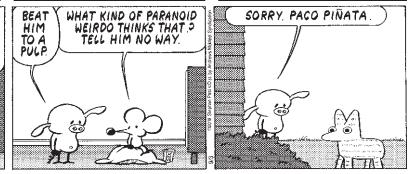
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



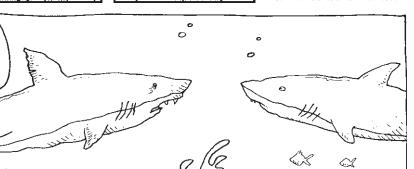
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



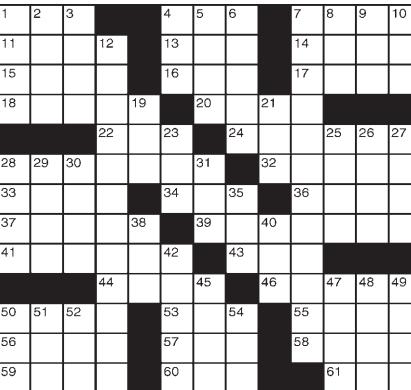
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



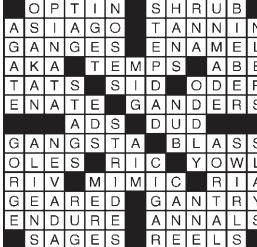
ACROSS

1 Stately tree
 4 Apr. addressee
 7 Mani counterpart
 11 Hearing-impaired
 13 — au vin
 14 Pivot line
 15 Early Peruvian
 16 Debtor's letters
 17 Detail
 18 Moral principle
 20 "Death in Venice" author
 22 Sgt., e.g.
 24 Resentful
 28 Durable
 32 Higher than
 33 Six-sided state
 34 "Mangia!"
 36 Bar
 37 Beer type
 39 With one's head held high
 41 Tacit
 43 Boom times
 44 Exceptional
 46 Cogitate
 50 Shock
 53 Hosp. hookups
 55 Thames town
 56 Garfield's pal
 57 Victory sign
 58 Wise one
 59 Flex
 60 Computer key
 61 Blue

DOWN

1 Actress Falco
 2 Pre-Easter
 3 period
 3 Jet speed
 4 number
 4 Here, in Dijon
 5 Leeway
 6 Small pigeon
 7 Artist's tools
 8 Tel. number
 9 Conk out
 10 Doctrine
 12 Lacking
 14 courage
 19 201, in old Rome
 21 Actress Vardalos
 23 "A Chorus
 Line" song
 25 Frog's kin
 26 Satan's forte
 27 Depend (on)
 28 Humdinger
 29 — impasse
 30 Droops
 31 Mountain pass
 35 Capote
 nickname
 38 Estuary
 40 Select,
 with "for"
 42 Impetus
 45 Prior nights
 47 Slanted type
 (Abbr.)
 48 Scrapp'd
 mission
 49 Recognized
 50 Task
 51 Praise in verse
 52 Architect
 Maya
 54 Moment

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-3

F J V N P J W N V X K L J D W V F N V
 I F M R P J I D X Z V F X D R P Q
 Z X N M I F L R M N D R Z V
 R L L J I X W X Z Z N Q X : "L J P K J P Q

W X W R . "

Saturday's **Cryptoquip**: HOW DO YOU GRADUALLY PROVE TO SOMEBODY THAT YOU'RE A PRO AT SOLVING ENIGMAS? RIDDLE BY RIDDLE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals H

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Be aware of the common red flags.

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■ Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using PayPal.

■ People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140**SELLER BEWARE**

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142

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SCOREBOARD

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Auto racing

Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200

NASCAR Xfinity Series
Sunday

At Darlington Raceway
Darlington, S.C.

Lap length: 1.366 miles

(Start position in parentheses)

1. (3) K. Kwasniewski, Ford, 147 laps.
0 rating, 0 points.

2. (5) Cole Custer, Ford, 147, 0, 39.
(3) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet, 147, 0, 47.

4. (5) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 147, 0, 0.
(5) Elliott Sadler, Chevrolet, 147, 0, 39.

6. (38) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 147, 0, 47.

7. (10) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 147, 0, 43.

14. (16) Matt Tifft, Chevrolet, 147, 0, 29.

19. (12) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 147, 0, 0.

10. (15) Michael Annett, Chevrolet, 147, 0, 21.

17. (4) Daniel Hemric, Chevrolet, 147, 0, 32.

12. (39) Brandon Jones, Toyota, 147, 0, 25.

13. (14) Ryan Reed, Ford, 147, 0, 24.

21. (21) Landon Cassill, Chevrolet, 147, 0, 23.

15. (13) Ryan Truex, Chevrolet, 147, 0, 22.

16. (17) Jeremy Clements, Chevrolet, 147, 0, 21.

17. (23) Ryan Sieg, Chevrolet, 147, 0, 20.

24. (28) Brandon Brown, Chevrolet, 147, 0, 19.

19. (18) Alex Labbe, Chevrolet, 146, 0, 18.

20. (20) Garrett Smithley, Chevrolet, 146, 0, 17.

21. (25) Joey Gase, Chevrolet, 146, 0, 16.

25. (20) Tommy Joe Martins, Chevrolet, 146, 0, 15.

23. (29) B.J. McLeod, Chevrolet, 146, 0, 14.

24. (32) Cody Ware, Chevrolet, 145, 0, 0.

25. (1) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 145, 0, 23.

26. (30) Bayley Currey, Toyota, 135, 0, 0.

27. (35) Mike Harmon, Chevrolet, 131, 0, 10.

28. (40) John Blitski, Toyota, 128, 0, 9.

29. (7) Kevin Harvick, Ford, accident, 111, 0, 0.

30. (22) JJ Yeley, Chevrolet, electrical, 99, 0, 0.

31. (31) Spencer Boyd, Chevrolet, 95, 0, 6.

37. (37) Chad Finchem, Chevrolet, 90, 0, 5.

33. (41) Carl Long, Chevrolet, brakes, 67, 0, 4.

42. (2) Christopher Bell, Toyota, accident, 65, 0, 12.

35. (27) Timmy Hill, Toyota, vibration, 54, 0, 0.

36. (28) David Starr, Chevrolet, engine, 40, 0, 1.

46. (26) Winnie Miller, Chevrolet, suspension, 32, 0, 1.

38. (33) Morgan Shepherd, Chevrolet, handling, 24, 0, 1.

39. (36) Matt Green, Chevrolet, transmission, 13, 0, 1.

40. (11) Austin Cindric, Ford, accident, 2, 0, 1.

Race Statistics

Time of Race: 1 hour, 48 minutes, 22 seconds.

Margin of Victory: 0.738 seconds.

Caution Flags: 6 for 30 laps.

Lead Changes: 10 among 5 drivers.

Lap Leader: R. Chastain, 5, 10, 15, 20.

Fastest Lap: 1 lap, 20.33 sec for 33 laps.

K. Harvick, 1 time for 17 laps; I. Yeley, 1 time for 1 lap; T. Martins, 1 time for 2 laps.

Wins: J. Allgaier, 4; C. Bell, 4; K. Kwasniewski, 3; K. Harvick, 1; T. Reddick, 4.

Top 10 in Points: 1. J. Allgaier, 888.2; E. Sadler, 872; 3. C. Custer, 871; 4. C. Bell, 867; 5. K. Harvick, 863; 6. T. Reddick, 853; 7. B. Jones, 87.8; M. Tifft, 663; 9. R. Truex, 660; 10. R. Reed, 553.

Most Wins: 4

Rating Formula

A maximum of 150 points can be attained in a race.

The formula combines the following categories: Wins, Finishes, Top-15 Finishes, Average Running Position While on Lead, Lap Average Speed, Under-the-Green Lap, Led Most Laps, Lead Lap Finish.

Source: NASCAR

Sports
on AFNSports
on AFN

NFL



TONY AVELAR/AP

San Francisco 49ers running back Jerick McKinnon tore his right ACL at practice Saturday and will miss the season.

49ers lose McKinnon for season

By JOSH DUBOW

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — San Francisco 49ers running back Jerick McKinnon will miss the entire season after tearing the ACL in his right knee on the final play of practice Saturday.

McKinnon took part in his first day of team drills since injuring his right calf Aug. 9 before going down with a much more significant injury.

"He made a cut on air, no one was around him," coach Kyle Shanahan said before the MRI determined the severity of the injury. "He went down. It looked awkward."

The 49ers were counting heavily on McKinnon this season after signing him to a four-year, \$30 million contract in free agency. The 49ers now have three healthy running backs on the roster in Matt Breida, Alfred Morris and Raheem Mostert.

McKinnon spent four years mostly as a backup in Minnesota. He has rushed for 1,918 yards with an average of 4.0 yards per carry, has 142 catches for 984 yards, and has scored 12 touchdowns.

The injury came hours before the 49ers had to reduce their roster to 53 players. The most notable cuts were defensive end Jeremiah Attaochu, who was signed as a free agent this offseason, expected to boost the pass rush; Jonathan Cooper, who was expected to challenge for the starting right guard spot; and 2016 sixth-round pick Ta'uaoepu.

The moves to cut Attaochu and Ta'uaoepu come as the Niners are still searching for consistent pass rushers on the outside. San Francisco kept 10 defensive linemen, with seven capable of playing outside, but none is a proven pass rusher.

Attaochu was slowed by injuries in training camp and wasn't able to show he could solidify that spot despite getting \$2.5 million in guaranteed money when he signed his one-year deal this offseason.

US OPEN

Brother's sacrifice helped Ashe to major

Legend's sibling volunteered for Vietnam tour to keep player on track for title 50 years ago

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — In the spring of 1967, Arthur Ashe, an Army second lieutenant, was honing his tennis skills as an accomplished amateur player, eying a spot to compete in a Grand Slam championship.

A world away in Vietnam at Red Beach Base Area in Danang, his younger brother Johnnie Ashe, a Marine, anxiously counted down the days left of his time at war.

And then it hit Johnnie, now 70. He described it as a "God thought."

The Marine realized if he went home his older brother, who had 15 months left in the service, could be shipped off to Vietnam. Johnnie immediately marched down to his first sergeant and requested a second tour of duty.

"I didn't want Arthur to have to experience Vietnam. He didn't need to experience Vietnam," Ashe told Stars and Stripes on Friday, noting an unofficial military policy meant to spare family members from serving in battle at the same time. "Arthur didn't need to be in Vietnam — if for no other reason than where's he's going to practice? It would just upset his body of motion and the progress he was making in the sport."

The Marine Corps granted Johnnie Ashe his unusual request, and as he spent the next year fighting in Vietnam with the 1st Force Service Regiment and the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force, his brother served safely at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and prepared for the 1968 U.S. Open.

Johnnie made it back to the United States just in time to see his brother beat Tom Okker in five sets to claim the first U.S. Open and become the first African-American man to win a Grand Slam tournament.

Fifty years later, the United States Tennis Association is celebrating Arthur Ashe's accomplishment throughout the two-week U.S. Open at New York's Billy Jean King National Tennis Center, where the main stadium is named for Arthur Ashe. The tournament, which started Aug. 27, is hosting a virtual reality experience exhibit — produced by filmmaker Rex Miller — highlighting the late tennis star's 1968 victory. On Labor Day, during the tournament's annual military appreciation ceremony, the USTA will honor Arthur and Johnnie.

Five years Arthur's junior, Johnnie knew from a young age his brother was destined for greatness. More than a star on the ten-

'He said, 'Yeah, I'm a champion now. People will listen to what I have to say'. That was Arthur. And, as a result, I knew from that point on that there were no bounds to his life. I knew what I did [volunteering for a second tour] was right. It was providence.'

Johnnie Ashe

younger brother of Arthur Ashe who volunteered for Vietnam to keep tennis great at home

nis court — a sport overwhelmingly dominated by white players — Johnnie recalled recognizing his brother's intellect and commitment to righting injustices even as a teenager in their segregated hometown of Richmond, Va.

"There was more to Arthur Ashe Jr. than just tennis," Johnnie Ashe said. "The world didn't know it at that time, but I, as his brother, I knew it."

Arthur realized success on the tennis court would provide him the platform to speak out. He wanted to be the Jackie Robinson of tennis, Johnnie Ashe said. Shortly after winning that fateful tournament on Sept. 8, 1968, Arthur Ashe called his brother, who watched the match while on duty at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

"He said, 'Yeah, I'm a champion now. People will listen to what I have to say,'" Ashe recalled. "That was Arthur. And, as a result, I knew from that point on that there were no bounds to his life. I knew what I did [volunteering for a second tour] was right. It was providence."

Johnnie went on to serve 20 years in the Marine Corps, retiring as a captain. Arthur excelled on the tennis courts. He won two more Grand Slam championships — the 1970 Australian Open and Wimbledon in 1975. Off the court, he raised awareness of issues including South African apartheid, health care and education deficiencies in minority American communities and later about AIDS, the disease that would take



Associated Press file photo

In 1968, Arthur Ashe became the first black man to win a Grand Slam tournament when he captured the U.S. Open title. His accomplishment was made possible in part by his brother, Johnnie, a Marine who volunteered for a second tour in Vietnam so Arthur could remain stateside and focus on his career. The United States Tennis Association will honor Arthur and Johnnie Ashe on Monday during its annual military appreciation ceremony.

his life in 1993 after he contracted HIV from a blood transfusion after heart bypass surgery.

Johnnie never told his brother of his decision to volunteer for a second tour in Vietnam. He said there was no reason to do so.

"It was a really simple decision," he said Friday. "It worked out."

However, Johnnie learned after his brother's death that Arthur was aware of his sacrifice, when he included it in his book "Days of Grace: A Memoir."

That sacrifice has not gone unnoticed. USTA spokeswoman Jasmine Sheppard said it was important the U.S. Open recognize Johnnie alongside Arthur. Johnnie will be presented a flag by West Point cadets Monday during the ceremony, she said

"We wanted to be make sure we acknowledge him for his sacrifice," Sheppard said. "This is about both of the brothers, for what was accomplished both in tennis and outside the tennis realm. We wanted to celebrate them."

Fifty years later, Johnnie Ashe said he would again make the same decision that perhaps spared his brother from war.

"He justified what I did," Ashe said. "He was able to stay out of [Vietnam] and play and practice and get better."

"And because of his successes in tennis, it put him in a position to assume the burdens of others, to speak truth to power ... and because he was a champion, because he was great, people listened."

Corey Dickstein: dickstein.corey@stripes.com
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MLB SCOREBOARD

American League

East Division		Pct	GB
Boston	94	.43	.696
New York	86	.50	.632
Toronto	75	.63	.582
Baltimore	71	.61	.594
Central Division	40	.96	.294
Cleveland	85	.57	.14
Minnesota	83	.72	.467
Detroit	54	.82	.397
Kansas City	44	.91	.326
West Division	81	.52	.610
Oakland	81	.56	.591
Seattle	81	.60	.485
Texas	66	.60	.485
	59	.77	.434
	24		

National League

East Division		Pct	GB
Atlanta	75	.60	.510
Philadelphia	75	.63	.33
Washington	68	.58	.70
New York	65	.70	.444
Central Division	64	.39	.397
Chicago	89	.55	.495
St. Louis	70	.55	.474
Milwaukee	76	.61	.555
Cincinnati	79	.56	.224
West Division	74	.62	.544
Los Angeles	74	.58	—
Colorado	73	.62	.541
San Francisco	68	.69	.595
San Diego	69	.69	.591
	21		

Saturday's games

N.Y. Yankees @ N.Y. Mets	11	11	11
Boston, 2, Chicago White Sox	1	1	1
Houston, 1, L.A. Angels 3	1	1	1
Milwaukee, 1, Arizona 2	1	1	1
Tampa Bay, 5, Cleveland 3	1	1	1
Kansas City 5, Baltimore 4	1	1	1
Toronto, 1, Seattle 7	1	1	1
S. Florida, 7, Atlanta 2	1	1	1
Sunday's games			
Chicago, 7, Philadelphia 1			
Washington, 5, Milwaukee 4			
Atlanta, 1, Arizona 2			
Cincinnati, 4, St. Louis 2			
Colorado, 4, San Diego 2			
L.A. Dodgers, 1, Arizona 2			

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Chicago, 7, Philadelphia 1			
Washington, 5, Milwaukee 4			
Atlanta, 1, Arizona 2			
Cincinnati, 4, St. Louis 2			
Colorado, 4, San Diego 2			
L.A. Dodgers, 1, Arizona 2			

N.Y. Yankees @ N.Y. Mets	11	11	11
Boston, 2, Chicago White Sox	1	1	1
Houston, 1, L.A. Angels 3	1	1	1
Milwaukee, 1, Arizona 2	1	1	1
Tampa Bay, 5, Cleveland 3	1	1	1
Kansas City 5, Baltimore 4	1	1	1
Toronto, 1, Seattle 7	1	1	1
S. Florida, 7, Atlanta 2	1	1	1
Sunday's games			
Chicago, 7, Philadelphia 1			
Washington, 5, Milwaukee 4			
Atlanta, 1, Arizona 2			
Cincinnati, 4, St. Louis 2			
Colorado, 4, San Diego 2			
L.A. Dodgers, 1, Arizona 2			

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Boston, 2, Chicago White Sox	1	1	1
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Colorado, 4, San Diego 2			
L.A. Dodgers, 1, Arizona 2			

MLB



MICHAEL OWEN BAKER/AP

The Dodgers' Matt Kemp reacts after hitting a three-run homer in the eighth inning on Saturday against the Arizona Diamondbacks in Los Angeles. The Dodgers won 3-2.

Roundup

Bryant has 2 hits in return from DL; Cubs beat Phillies

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Kyle Hendricks pitched six strong innings, Javier Baez notched his NL-leading 99th RBI and Kris Bryant doubled and had two hits in his return from the disabled list to lead the Chicago Cubs past the Philadelphia Phillies 7-1 on Saturday night.

Ian Happ homered and Baez had three hits for the NL Central-leading Cubs, who have won nine of 11.

Bryant had been sidelined since July 23 with left shoulder inflammation. The 2016 NL MVP doubled and scored in the third and singled in the eighth.

Nick Williams had two hits and an RBI for the Phillies, who fell three games behind first-place Atlanta in the NL East.

Mariners 8, Athletics 7: James Paxton returned from the disabled list to strike out 10 batters over five innings as visiting Seattle held off Oakland.

Yankees 2, Tigers 1: Masahiro Tanaka pitched seven strong innings for his first win since July, rookie Gleyber Torres hit a two-run homer and host New York beat Detroit.

Astros 7, Angels 3: Tyler White hit a go-ahead two-run double in a five-run eighth inning, Alex Bregman homered and Houston beat visiting Los Angeles.

Red Sox 6, White Sox 1: Eduardo Rodriguez struck out 12 in 5 2/3 innings in his return from an ankle injury, leading Boston past host Chicago.

Rays 5, Indians 3: Blake Snell moved into a tie for the major league lead with his 17th win as visiting Tampa Bay beat Cleveland.



CHRIS SZAGOLA/AP

Chicago's David Bote slides safely into home before Philadelphia Phillies catcher Wilson Ramos, left, can make the tag during the ninth inning of Saturday's game in Philadelphia. The Cubs won 7-1.

Braves 5, Pirates 3: At-
lanta, Freddie Freeman hit a tiebreaking, RBI double in the four-run eighth inning, and the NL East-leading Braves rallied to snap a three-game skid.

Nationals 5, Brewers 4: Juan Soto's two-run single highlighted a four-run eighth inning, and Washington rallied past visiting Milwaukee.

Rockies 4, Padres 2: D.J. Le-
Mahieu homered and Jon Gray pitched six solid innings as Colorado snapped host San Diego's season-high four-game winning streak.

Mets 2, Giants 1 (11): Steven Matz struck out a career-high 11 batters, and visiting New York went on to beat San Francisco.

Reds 4, Cardinals 0: Luis Cas-

tillo and two relievers combined on a two-hitter to lead Cincinnati past host St. Louis.

Rangers 7, Twins 4: At Ar-
lington, Texas, Adrian Beltre hit his 470th career homer after 23-
year-old sluggers Nomar Mazara and Ronald Guzman went deep, helping the Rangers stop a five-game losing streak with a win over Minnesota.

Royals 5, Orioles 4: Whit Mer-
riff hit a two-run homer with one out in the ninth inning, giving host Kansas City a back-and-forth victory over Baltimore.

Marlins 6, Blue Jays 3: Martin Prado hit a bases-clearing double in his first game in three weeks, Wei-Yin Chen pitched eight strong innings and Miami beat visiting Toronto.

Los Angeles wins, ties Arizona atop NL West

By BETH HARRIS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Matt Kemp has had a lot of big hits for the Dodgers in his career. Traded back to them this season, he's regaining his rhythm offensively in the heat of a pennant race.

Kemp slugged a go-ahead, two-strike, three-run homer in the eighth inning, lifting Los Angeles to a 3-2 victory over Arizona and a tie atop the NL West with the Diamondbacks on Saturday night.

"Coming into September, we know what every game means," he said. "I don't think they're going to quit, so we got to be just as good."

With the sellout crowd of 52,394 on its feet chanting "Let's go Dodgers," Kemp took two quick strikes from Archie Bradley before launching his 19th homer into center field for a 3-2 lead.

"That was really fun to watch," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said.

Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said, "These kinds of games is what makes baseball great."

Justin Turner got the rally going with

Heating up

.310

Dodgers' slugger Matt Kemp's batting average since Aug. 15. He has two home runs, six RBIs and five runs in that span.

SOURCE: Associated Press

one out in the inning. He singled for the Dodgers' first hit since his double in the third. Manny Machado followed with a 10-pitch walk by Bradley to set up Kemp.

"Biggest hit of the year so far," starter Clayton Kershaw said of Kemp's homer. "T.J. fights off a tough pitch to shoot it through the hole and Manny fights off that at-bat. It was an awesome comeback win for us."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Saturday's stars

Shawn Robinson, TCU, accounted for five TDs in one half as the No. 1 Horned Frogs opened the season with a 55-7 over Southern University.

Justin Herbert, Oregon, accounted for 322 yards and six TDs to lead the No. 24 Ducks to a 58-24 victory over Bowling Green.

Feleipe Franks, Florida, threw five TD passes in the first half and the Gators got the Dan Mullen era off to a roiling start with a 53-7 victory against overmatched Charleston Southern.

Dwayne Haskins Jr., Ohio State, threw for 313 yards and five TDs and the No. 5 Buckeyes routed Oregon State 77-31.

Will Grier, West Virginia, threw for 429 yards and five TDs as the No. 17 Mountaineers defeated Tennessee 40-14.

Tyler Horton, Boise State, tied the FBS record by returning two fumbles for TDs in the No. 22 Broncos' 56-20 rout of Troy.

Mason Fine, North Texas, threw for 444 yards and three TDs in a 46-23 win over SMU.

Michael Warren II, Cincinnati, rushed for 141 yards and three TDs, and the Bearcats spoiled Chip Kelly's coaching debut at UCLA by throttling the Bruins' offense in a 26-17 victory.

Keytaon Thompson, Mississippi, threw for 364 yards and five TDs as the 18th-ranked Bulldogs cruised to a 63-6 victory over Stephen F. Austin.

Jakobti Meyers, North Carolina State, had 14 catches for 161 yards to help the Wolfpack start James Madison 24-13.

Anthony Brown, Boston College, threw for 279 yards and four TDs in one half of a 55-21 victory over in-state rival Massachusetts.

Scottie Phillips, Ole Miss, ran for a career-high 204 yards and two scores in a 47-27 win over Texas Tech.

Tyree Jackson, Buffalo, threw for six TDs as the Bulls beat Delaware State 48-10.

Gage Gubrud, Eastern Washington, threw for 337 yards and five TDs in a 58-13 win over Central Washington.

— The Associated Press



ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH/AP

Mississippi running back Scottie Phillips, right, runs past Texas Tech defensive back John Bonney during the second half on Saturday in Houston. Phillips ran for a career-high 204 yards and two scores in a 47-27 win.

How the AP Top 25 fared

1 Alabama (1-0) beat Louisville 51-14. Crimson Tide players had 100-plus yards through four TDs with two touchdowns and ran for a third in their first college start, helping top-ranked and defending national champion Alabama open the season with the rout of Louisville.

Next: vs. Arkansas State, Saturday.

2 Clemson (1-0) beat Furman 48-27. Freshman Trevor Lawrence threw three touchdown passes and Clemson scored on all five of his drives in the season-opening rout. Lawrence went 9-for-16, 137 yards and had a 100-yard run. Senior quarterback Brynn was 10-for-16 for 127 yards and a touchdown and ran five times for 44 yards and another score.

Next: at Texas A&M, Saturday.

3 Georgia (1-0) beat Austin Peay 45-0. Jake Fromm threw two scoring passes while sharing time with freshman Justin Fields and Georgia showed off some new firepower, including a 59-yard touchdown pass from Fromm to Mecole Hardman and a 72-yard scoring run by Demetris Robertson, who was making his debut.

Next: at South Carolina, Saturday.

4 Wisconsin (1-0) beat Western Kentucky 34-23. Friday, Jonathan Taylor had two long touchdown runs.

Alex Hornibrook threw for 257 yards and two scores and a young defense working in new seven starters forced two turnovers inside Wisconsin's 5.

Next: vs. New Mexico, Saturday.

5 Oregon (1-0) beat Oregon State 57-23. With backup Urban Meyer serving a suspension, new starting quarterback Dwayne Haskins Jr. had a record-setting day, throwing five touchdown passes to help Oregon State rout Oregon State in the opener for both teams.

Next: vs. Rutgers, Saturday.

6 Washington (0-1) lost to No. 9 Auburn 21-14. The Tigers' play was a bit lackluster through four TDs with two touchdowns and ran for a third in their first college start, helping top-ranked and defending national champion Alabama open the season with the rout of Louisville.

Next: at Arizona State, Saturday.

7 No. 7 Oklahoma (1-0) beat FAU 63-14. Kyler Murray, taking over for Heisman Trophy winner Baker Mayfield, passed for 209 yards and two touchdowns and led Oklahoma to a 24-13 win. Murray connected on nine of 11 passes in just under one half. Marquise Brown caught six passes for 133 yards and a touchdown, and Rodriguez Anderson rushed for 100 yards and two touchdowns on just five carries.

Next: vs. UCLA, Saturday.

8 Miami (0-0) did not play. Miami's defense features three preseason all-ACC selections in linebacker Shaquille Quarterman, cornerback Michael Jackson and safety Jaquan Johnson.

Next: vs. No. 25 LSU at Arlington, Texas, Saturday.

9 Auburn (1-0) beat No. 6 Washington 21-16. Javarius Whitehead ran 9 yards for a touchdown with 6:15 remaining, and the Auburn defense came through at the end, leading the Tigers in the opener.

Next: vs. Alabama State, Saturday.

10 Penn State (1-0) beat Appalachian State 45-30. Saturday, sophomore quarterback Zack Thomas' pass in the end zone and Penn State held on to beat Appalachian State. Miles Sanders ran for 91 yards and two touchdowns, including the go-ahead score in overtime for the Nittany Lions in the opener for both teams.

Next: at Pittsburgh, Saturday.

11 Michigan State (1-0) beat Utah State 38-31. Friday, Connor Heyward had three TDs and touchdowns with 2 minutes left to put No. 11 Michigan State ahead and the Spartans held on to beat Utah State.

Next: at Arizona State, Saturday.

12 Notre Dame (1-0) beat No. 14 Michigan 24-17. Brandon Wimbush connected on a long touchdown pass to help Notre Dame jump out to a big first-half lead, and Te'von Coney and the defense made it stand with a late takeaway.

Next: vs. Ball State, Saturday.

13 Stanford (1-0) beat San Diego State 31-10. Friday, J.J. Arcega-Whiteside caught three TD passes from K.J. Costello to overcome a slow start by Heisman Trophy runner-up Bryce Love.

Next: vs. No. 15 Southern Cal, Saturday.

14 Michigan (0-1) lost to No. 12 Notre Dame 24-17. Michigan's only offensive touchdown came with 2:18 left in the fourth quarter, when Karan Higdon rushed in from 3 yards to the lead to seven. Shea Patterson, the touted transfer from Mississippi, went 20-for-30 for 227 yards under steady pressure from the Irish defensive line.

Next: vs. Western Michigan, Saturday.

15 Penn State (1-0) beat UNLV 41-17. Saturday, the Nittany Lions' redshirt freshman to start at quarterback in a season opener for the Trojans, threw for 282 yards, and had a 43-yard touchdown pass to Amon-Ra St. Brown. Miles Sanders had 22 of 35, and fellow freshman St. Brown making seven receptions for 98 yards.

Next: at No. 13 Stanford, Saturday.

16 TCU (1-0) beat Southern U. 55-7. Shawn Robinson threw three touchdown passes and ran for two more scores while playing only the first half in TCU's opening blowout. The Horned Frogs scored on their first six drives and won their 17th consecutive home opener under coach Gary Patterson.

Next: at SMU, Saturday.

17 West Virginia (1-0) beat Tennessee 40-14. Will Grier got his Heisman Trophy campaign off to an impressive start, throwing for 420 yards and five touchdowns to help West Virginia rout Tennessee. David Sims had seven grabs for 140 yards and two touchdowns.

Next: vs. Youngstown State, Saturday.

18 Mississippi (1-0) beat Stephen F. Austin 63-6. Keytaon Thompson threw for 364 yards and five touchdowns, Mississippi State had 17 tackles for a loss and cruised in its opener. The Bulldogs had completions of 53, 84, 27 and 30 yards for touchdowns.

Next: at Kansas State, Saturday.

19 Florida State (0-0) did not play. The Seminoles have one of the ACC's deepest backfields behind Cam Akers, Jacques Patrick and redshirt freshman Khalan Labor. Andre Taggart's spread offense has had 1,000-yard rushers from South Florida and Oregon.

Next: vs. No. 20 Virginia Tech, Monday.

20 Virginia Tech (0-0) did not play. Virginia Tech QB Josh Jackson threw for 2,991 yards, 20 touchdowns and nine interceptions in 13 starts last season.

Next: vs. No. 19 Florida State, Monday.

21 UCF (1-0) beat UConn 56-20. Mckenzie Milton threw for 340 yards and tied a career high with five touchdowns as the self-proclaimed defending national champs routed UConn to extend the longest winning streak in the nation to 14 games.

Next: vs. SMU, Saturday.

22 Boise State (1-0) beat Troy 56-20. Brett Rypien passed for 305 yards and four touchdowns, and Sean Modster had 167 yards receiving, and the Broncos raced to a 35-7 hammering and a Trojans team coming off an 11-win season.

Next: vs. Youngstown State, Saturday.

23 Texas (0-1) lost to Maryland 34-29. After blowing a 24-7 lead, Maryland forced three turnovers in the final 6:09 and scored the game's final 10 points to stun the Longhorns in the opener for the second year in a row. Texas fell from the rankings after losing in the opener to Maryland last year, and it's likely that will happen again.

Next: vs. Tulsa, Saturday.

24 Oregon (0-1) beat Bowling Green 59-24. Justin Herbert threw for five touchdowns and ran for another score for Oregon. Herbert completed 10 of 21 passes for 281 yards and the five passing TDs were the most for a Duck in a season-opening game. He also rushed for 41 yards.

Next: vs. Portland State, Saturday.

25 LSU (0-1) did not play. Ohio State's game-trading Joe Burrow made his first college start in his LSU debut. Burrow appeared as a reserve in 10 games over two seasons with the Buckeyes, completing 29 of 39 passes for 287 yards and two TDs.

Next: vs. No. 8 Miami at Arlington, Texas, Sunday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Navy loses first opener since '14

By KALANI TAKASE
Associated Press

HONOLULU — According to his coach, Cole McDonald has his priorities in order.

Despite it being just his second career start, McDonald turned in another glowing performance Saturday night. The sophomore threw for 428 yards and six touchdowns on 30-for-41 passing and Hawaii used a quick start en route to a 59-41 win over Navy on Saturday night.

"I think it's just hard work, it's his desire and it should come down to those two things and he's either worrying about his hair, or he's doing football," Rolovich said of McDonald, who has passed for 846 yards and nine touchdowns without an interception this season.

"There's not a lot of stuff outside of school, football and his sweet hair that he worries about — and the kid is competitive. The kid is a confident competitor that nothing flusters him and sometimes he makes me angry, but that's because I think he can be even better than he was tonight and when he sees the film he'll understand that," Rolovich said.

The Rainbow Warriors (2-0) scored on their first six possessions and racked up 522 total yards, while the Midshipmen (0-1) dropped their first season opener since 2014.

John Ursua (10 catches for 167 yards), Cedric Byrd (11-for-90) and JoJo Ward (6-for-161) each caught two touchdown passes from McDonald.

Freddy Holly III's 1-yard TD run, the first of his career, gave Hawaii a 14-0 first-quarter lead.

After Navy turned it over on downs on its ensuing drive, Ward pulled down a 34-yard scoring strike from McDonald five plays into the second quarter on fourth-and-4.

Later in the quarter, on fourth-and-1, McDonald faked a handoff to Holly before lofting a deep pass down the right sideline to a wide-open Ursua, who



EUGENE TANNER/AP

Hawaii defensive lineman Jeffery Keene, center, blocks a punt by Navy's Owen White (4) during the first half Saturday in Honolulu.

had his seventh game with at least 100 receiving yards.

That stretched the lead to 35-7, but Navy answered with Malcom Perry's 75-yard TD run one play later.

Ryan Meskell's 23-yard field goal on the final play of the first half closed out a 24-point second quarter for Rainbow Warriors and gave them a 38-14 lead at the intermission.

Navy scored twice — on a pair of Zach Abey TD runs — in a span of 85 seconds midway through the third quarter to pull within 38-28, but McDonald tossed a 31-yard TD pass to Byrd early in the fourth to make it a 17-point cushion.

Hawaii's 436 passing yards were the third most allowed by a Navy defense in the Ken Niumatalolo era and the most since Louisiana Tech recorded 409 on Dec. 23, 2016 in the Armed Forces Bowl. Niumatalolo said defending Hawaii's numerous offensive weapons made for a tough task.

Notre Dame tops No. 14 Michigan

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The Michigan Notre Dame series returned after a three-year hiatus and the 12th-ranked Fighting Irish became the latest rival to get the best of Jim Harbaugh's Wolverines.

Brandon Wimbush connected on a long touchdown pass to help Notre Dame jump out to a big first-half lead, Te'von Coney and the defense made it stand with a late takeaway and the Fighting Irish beat No. 14 Michigan 24-17 on Saturday night.

The Wolverines fell to 1-6 under Harbaugh against the school's biggest rivals, Ohio State, Michigan State and Notre Dame.

A ground-out crowd welcomed Michigan back to Notre Dame Stadium and the Fighting Irish scored on their first two drives against a defense loaded with future NFL draft picks. Chris Finke hauled in a deep throw from Wimbush that went through a defender's hands in traffic for a 43-yard score to put Notre Dame up 14-0 midway through the first half.

Wimbush, who had to re-establish himself as the starter in the offseason after a rough end to

2017, was 12 for 22 for 170 yards and an interception and ran for 59 yards.

"It just feels like playing football again," said Wimbush, who got a game ball from coach Brian Kelly. "I just had so much fun out there, playing ball and just not worrying about anything else."

Kelly said of his senior quarterback: "I thought he played with an edge to him, a confidence."

Jafar Armstrong's second touchdown, a 4-yard run with 3:55 left in the second quarter made it 21-3. Ambry Thomas gave the Wolverines a much-needed jolted with a 99-yard touchdown on the ensuing kickoff, but otherwise the Michigan debut of quarterback Shea Patterson was mostly disappointing.

Michigan's only offensive touchdown came with 2:18 left in the fourth quarter, when Karan Higdon rushed in from 3 yards to cut the lead to seven.

Patterson, the touted transfer from Mississippi, went 20-for-30 for 227 yards and an interception. He spent a lot of time eluding pass rushers.

"They got us on the inside blitzes. They brought great pressure all night long," Harbaugh said.

Debate: Tagovailoa gets start at QB for top-ranked Alabama

FROM BACK PAGE

indication of the starter against Louisville until Tagovailoa trotted onto the field following the opening kickoff.

Saban said the decision to begin with the sophomore from Ewa Beach, Hawaii, was made earlier in the week, but the plan was to play Hurts, too, Saban said that's also his intention moving forward.

"I talked to the quarterbacks before practice on Thursday and they both knew exactly what the situation was going to be in the game," he said.

"I wanted Tua to play somewhere in the neighborhood of 20 plays and then we're going to put Jalen in the game. It didn't matter when it was or what the score was," he added. "We wanted Tua to get the experience of running the two-minute (offense) so we put him back in there before the half. We're going to continue to have both these guys be weapons for us on offense because I think they can."

Saban grew a bit testy when he was asked by ESPN right after the win what he had learned about his quarterbacks. He said he liked both players and decided questions that he perceived were designed to draw critical comments about one of them.

Hurts threw for 2,081 yards and 17 touchdowns while rushing for 855 yards and eight more TDs a year ago. He was 26-2 as a start-



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Alabama's Josh Jacobs, left, celebrates his touchdown run against Louisville with wide receiver Jerry Jeudy on Saturday in Orlando, Fla.

er over the past two seasons.

Saban maintained throughout pre-season camp that Alabama was fortunate to have two quality quarterbacks and tried deflect attention from the QB debate by talking about the challenge the Crimson Tide faces in revamping a defense that lost eight starters from last season.

Tagovailoa was sacked on the game's second play, but pretty much had his way against the Louisville defense from there.

Jerry Jeudy had TD receptions of 11 and 25 yards, and Josh Jacobs scored on an 18-yard run

and a 77-yard kickoff return for the Crimson Tide.

Hurts played two series in the first half and re-entered the game in the third quarter with the defending national champions up 41-7.

Jalen Pass, who is replacing 2016 Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson for Louisville, completed 20 of 39 passes for 252 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions, including TDs of 12 yards to Kemari Averett and 8 yards to Tutu Atwell. The red-shirt sophomore's second interception was return 45 yards for a

'I talked to the quarterbacks before practice on Thursday and they both knew exactly what the situation was going to be in the game.'

Nick Saban
Alabama head coach

touchdown by Shyheim Carter.

The Cardinals (0-1) fell to 0-4 all-time against teams ranked No. 1.

"The biggest thing we have to do from this is learn," coach Bobby Petrino said, adding that's one reason he played Pass the entire game.

"It was never a question of taking him out of the game. He needed to stay in and get all those reps," Petrino said. "He's going to have a great career here. This was a hard opener, there's no question about that."

For the record: Alabama has won 74 consecutive games against unranked teams under Saban. It's the longest streak in FBS history. The Crimson Tide hasn't lost to an unranked opponent since falling to Auburn in November 2007.

Petrino, meanwhile, is 0-5 vs. Alabama. He is 7-2 in season openers with Louisville.

He did some good things, too: Hurts directed a field goal drive in the third quarter, finishing 5-of-9 passing for 70 yards and no interceptions. He rushed for 9 yards on 3 attempts. Red-

shirt freshman Mac Jones played much of the fourth quarter for the Crimson Tide.

Pol implications: Despite having a bunch of new faces on defense, Alabama entered the season opener No. 1 in the AP Top 25 for the third straight year. Louisville was clearly overmatched, however some — if not most — could be attributed to how well the Crimson Tide played in improving to 12-0 in season openers under Saban.

The takeaway

Louisville: It was a tough night for the Cardinals, who were limited to just 16 yards rushing while being outgained 517 yards to 268. The good news is it looks as if they have a chance to be as good throwing the ball as they were during the Jackson era.

Alabama: The Crimson Tide scored on offense, defense and special teams, showing that despite having to replace 12 starters, Saban has more than enough talent to make a run at Alabama's sixth national title in 10 years.

SPORTS

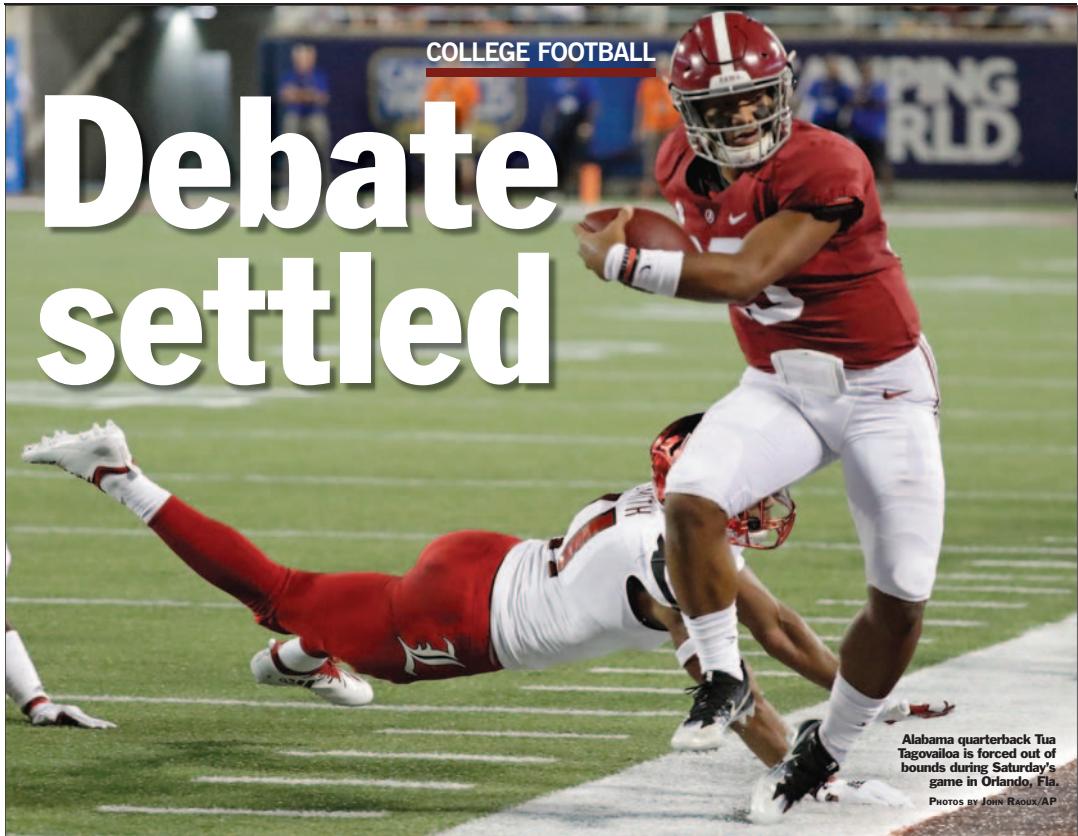


Bears trade for Mack

Raiders ship disgruntled LB to Chicago » **NFL, Page 25**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

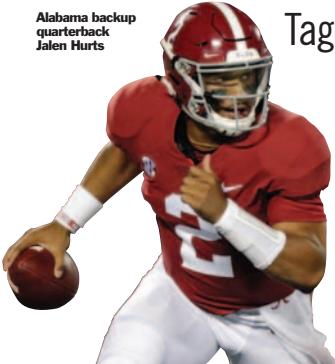
Debate settled



Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa is forced out of bounds during Saturday's game in Orlando, Fla.

PHOTOS BY JOHN RAOUX/AP

Alabama backup quarterback Jalen Hurts



Tagovailoa starts, shines as Alabama routs Louisville

BY FRED GOODALL
Associated Press

Alabama doesn't rebuild. The Crimson Tide simply reload. College Football Playoff hero Tua Tagovailoa threw for two touchdowns and ran for a third in his first college start, helping top-ranked and defending national champion Alabama open the season with a 51-14 rout of Louisville on Saturday night.

Essentially ending the debate — at least for now — about whether he or Jalen Hurts should be the Crimson Tide's No. 1 quarterback, Tagovailoa scored on a 9-yard run while also com-

pleting 12 of 16 passes for 227 yards without an interception.

"I thought there were a lot of things we did well and I also think there are a lot of things we need to fix," Alabama coach Nick Saban said.

"The effort of our players ... they executed very well on a lot of plays," Saban added. "I'm really proud of the way they came out and played and executed in the game. But I also think it's pretty obvious we need to do a lot of things better."

Although Tagovailoa came off the bench to lead Alabama to a come-from-behind victory over Georgia in the CFP championship game last January, Saban provided no public

SEE DEBATE ON PAGE 31

Dodgers win, move into tie atop NL West » **MLB, Page 29**

